

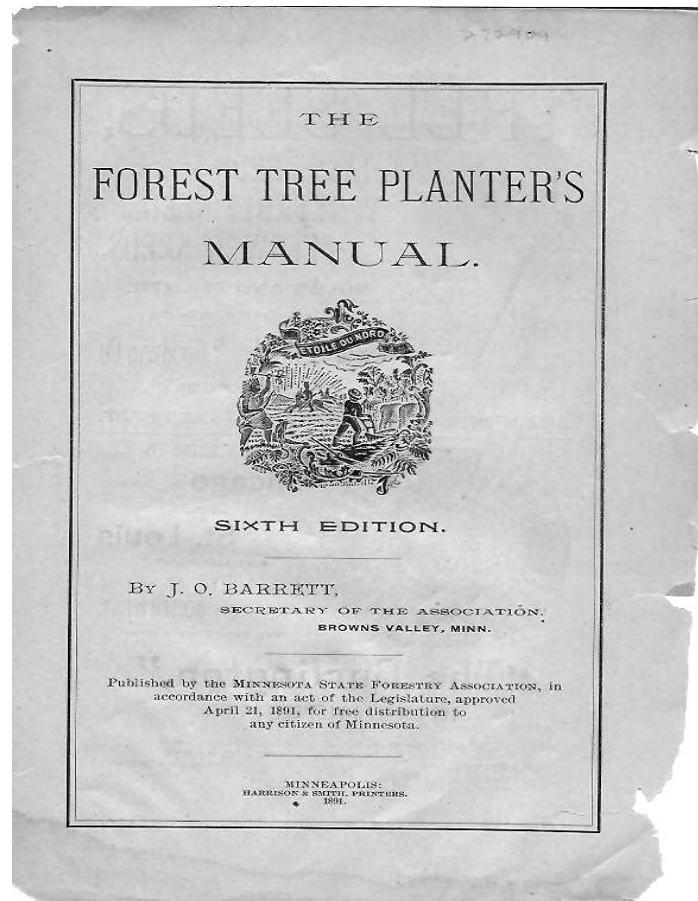
**History of the  
Minnesota Forestry Association  
1876-1930s and 1978-1988**

*by Jerry Lenz*

**The Story of Minnesota's First Conservation Organization**

**ITS RISE, DEMISE AND REPRISE**

Saint Cloud, Minnesota  
2013



**The tattered cover of a copy of the 6th edition of the MSFA Tree Planter's Manual**  
Twelve editions were published between 1879 and 1896, ranging from 32 to 142 pages; several of those editions were subsidized by the Minnesota Legislature.

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## History of The Minnesota Forestry Association

### *Part I*

#### *From the Association's Beginning to the Middle of the Twentieth Century*

*Perhaps the beginning of forestry in Minnesota can be traced to the establishment of the Minnesota State Forestry Association on January 11, 1876.*

From: "The Chapman Plantation at the University of Minnesota"  
Timothy C. O'Brian and Keith Matson

### *Foreword*

For many years it was thought the forests of Minnesota were inexhaustible. However, by the 1860s many observers had begun to fear that, in spite of her vast forests, Minnesota could be on its way to becoming treeless unless there were significant changes in the rate of harvesting and the amount of senseless waste. It was time: *to arrest the reckless destruction of our forests, and to restore, in some measure, what has been stripped from the land.*

Of course, many years later, Minnesotans would see that the cut-over lands did not remain treeless; rather, they were taken over by several pioneer species, especially Aspen.

The following forestry-related events, which took place from the mid-1860s to the founding of the Minnesota State Forestry Association in 1876, set the scene for the history which follows. From 1876 on, the discussion includes further developments in Minnesota forestry with special emphasis on the evolution of the MSFA.

1864 George Perkins Marsh published *Man and Nature*, a book still in print, which had a profound effect on America's attitude toward the environment.

1865 Horace Greeley reflects the attitude of many Americans about the forests of the Midwest: *This region will breathe freer when its last pine log is cut, run, sawed, rafted and sold.*

1867 The Wisconsin Legislature created what was apparently the first state commission in the country to make recommendations for a state forestry policy.

1868 Between 1868 and 1872, Minnesota and six other states passed laws offering financial incentives for tree planting.

1869 General C. C. Andrews was appointed minister to Sweden where he studied Swedish reforestation projects. Upon his return, he became an advocate for Minnesota's forests and was appointed as the state's first fire warden and later became Minnesota's first Forestry Commissioner.

1870s The first forestry classes in the U. S. were offered at land-grant colleges.

1871 The Peshtigo, Wisconsin Forest Fire occurred on the same day as the Chicago Fire. It was the deadliest fire in American history, consuming nearly 2,000 square miles and causing 1,500 fatalities. Several factors, besides the unusually dry year, likely caused the fire to be so huge: the piles of waste wood left in the forest by loggers; sparks from locomotives, and from the fires used by the railroads and many farmers to clear their woodlands.

1872 Nebraska celebrated the first Arbor Day and Harvard's Arnold Arboretum was established with Charles Sprague Sargent as the first director.

1872 The report of the Hayden Geological Survey of 1871 helped convince the U. S. Congress to establish Yellowstone National Park. President Grant signed the act in 1872, making Yellowstone the first federally protected park in the United States.

1873 January brought a blizzard of *memorable severity*. The claim was made that on Minnesota's prairie land *due to the absence of trees, suffering and death were reported from very many points*. This may be true, but exaggerated claims of the effects of trees on weather were not uncommon in nineteenth century Minnesota.

1873 Congress passed the Timber Culture Act, which will appear on the agendas of several Minnesota Forestry Association Meetings.

1873 Dr. Franklin B. Hough gave a talk to the American Association for the Advancement of Science entitled *On the Duty of Governments in the Preservation of Forests*. (See also 1876.)

1874 Minnesota Senator Ignatius Donnelly introduced a bill authorizing the planting of trees along 1,000 miles of state highways. Although passed by the Minnesota Senate, it failed in the House.

1874 Leonard B. Hodges supervised tree planting for the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad on their prairie lands in Minnesota.

1875 Leonard B. Hodges was quoted in the New York Times:  
*the stubborn fact exists that nearly or quite one-third of the finest agricultural lands of Minnesota are absolutely too destitute of timber to admit of settlement and cultivation.*

1875 The American Forestry Association (AFA) held its organizational meeting on the tenth of September in Chicago.

1876 Dr. Franklin B. Hough was appointed by Congress to prepare a report on U. S. Forests. The first volume of his *Report on Forestry*, published in 1878, said: *The misfortune has been that the clearing [of forests] was made without attention to the probable wants of the future.*

1881 Dr. Hough was appointed the first chief of the Division of Forestry within the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

## *Chapter I*

### *The Early Years of the Minnesota State Forestry Association*

*Everyone interested in tree growth should  
belong to this organization.*

*George W. Strand, 1899*

\* \* \* \* \*

To set the scene: in 1875, Minneapolis, which many considered to be on, or near, the western frontier, started building its street car system and in 1876 twenty-five women in St. Cloud exercised their newly acquired right to vote in the school board election. Ulysses Grant was president, John Pillsbury was governor of Minnesota and the Jesse James gang failed in their attempt to rob the First National Bank in Northfield.

\* \* \* \* \*

It was in the context of the above events that, on the eleventh of January, 1876, Leonard Hodges addressed a meeting he had called at the State Capitol: *of persons favorable to an organized encouragement of tree planting in Minnesota*. Hodges expressed his concern for settlers on the prairies of Minnesota by alluding to:

*the practical obstacles to the settlement of a vast and  
fertile portion of our state, resulting from the lack of timber.*

He went on to say that the: *first essential* of the proposed organization was *to disseminate information* which, interestingly, remains the main purpose of the MFA today.

The following evening a constitution was adopted, naming the new society the *Minnesota State Forestry Association* (MSFA). As time progressed, some members started referring to the organization as the Minnesota Forestry Association, or MFA. This became the official name in 1978. The purpose of the association was to gather and dispense information on forest culture, to encourage the observance of Arbor Day and: *to promote the redemption of the treeless regions of Minnesota*.

Many of the thirty-eight people at that first meeting were prominent Minnesota businessmen or political leaders. What they had in common was the belief that forestry was an important tool to promote settlement and economic development in the young state of Minnesota. Secretary Hodges was one of the few persons at that meeting with any practical experience in forestry. In fact, throughout its existence, most members of the MSFA were not professional foresters. Railroad executive E. F. Drake was chosen to be the first president of the MSFA. He was a former Minnesota State Senator and would later be considered one of the three wealthiest men in Minnesota. Drake a lawyer, had been in the news, retail and banking businesses. His wife was one of the first officers of the Twin Cities Protestant Orphan Asylum.

A week later the association met in the Superior Court Room at the State Capitol. They set Arbor Day as the first Tuesday of May and decided to request an appropriation from the Minnesota Legislature to fund premiums to encourage tree-planting and the growth of live fences. Fortunately, in light of problems we are facing today, the request to substitute *buckthorn hedges* for live fences failed!

Recently chosen MSFA President Drake noted that the cost to the railroads of Minnesota for fencing under current law was \$1,114,000. A Mr. Dunbar also had a complaint; he:

*denounced the present fencing system as a relic of feudalism and barbarism, bequeathed to us from the dark ages.*

At this time we are unable to identify the expressive Mr. Dunbar. The Association also discussed the relatively unpopular 1873 Timber Culture Act. Realizing future settlers would need trees for firewood and building materials, Congress passed the act to encourage tree-planting on the western prairies. Also, the act provided another way for potential farmers to obtain land. In that era, it was widely believed that trees would encourage more precipitation in drought prone regions. Under the act, a farmer who successfully established and maintained a 40- acre stand of trees following a specified ten-year schedule would earn a total of 160 acres. Unfortunately, many could not meet that goal because in addition to planting trees, they were busy building a house, establishing their farm and raising food for their family on the other 120 acres. As a result of receiving so many complaints, the required number of acres was reduced in 1878 from 40 to 10, a more reasonable goal.

It is estimated that approximately 65,000 applicants earned between 10 and 11 million acres under the act. Unfortunately, not all of those applicants were homesteaders. Even though it was a violation to file a claim with the intention of selling the land, many Timber Culture acres ended up in the hands of speculators or large corporations.

At later meetings Association members often returned to the discussion of the Timber Culture Act and they also frequently considered legislation for the prevention of forest fires.

The Minnesota Legislature gave the Association \$2,500 to promote the planting of trees. With that goal in mind, the Association published regulations for a tree planting competition in March of 1876 in the Pioneer Press. Premiums of \$10, \$5, \$3 and \$2 respectively, were to be awarded to the four contestants in each county who planted the most trees on Arbor Day. Only trees or cuttings which were still alive and healthy in October were eligible. Counting was to be done in the presence of two witnesses who were to sign an affidavit to be certified by a Justice of the Peace.

One of the Association's suggestions was that each county establish two classes of *Little Foresters*. The younger class was to be composed of boys and girls under ten and the older class of children from ten to fourteen. Premiums were available to the winning Little Forester in each group. Fifty enthusiastic Little Foresters from Worthington participated in the Arbor Day planting. They ranged from three-year-old Minnie McDowell, the youngest, who planted 71 cuttings, to thirteen- year-old Clayton Chase with 7,500 cuttings and fourteen- year-old Ernest Sutton, who planted 5,000 trees.

Among the adult contestants, Mr. A. Miner, also from Worthington, planted 130,000 cuttings and trees, but "only" 25,200 of those were on Arbor Day. Overall, far more cuttings than trees were planted. Willow was by far the most popular species; the majority of others were poplar, cottonwood and soft maple.

# RULES AND REGULATIONS.

1st.—No trees or cuttings planted as above, to be allowed to contest for any of above premiums except such as are alive and in a healthy growing condition, and showing evidence of care and cultivation in the month of October next after Arbor Day.

2d.—Each competitor to plant his own trees, but in case of sickness or unavoidable absence on Arbor Day he can employ a substitute.

3d.—All trees, cuttings or seeds to produce the trees to compete for above prizes, must be planted on Arbor Day (except otherwise mentioned), by the competitor, or such substitute as he may employ, and the plantation for competition must not average less than 2,500 nor more than 4,336 trees to an acre.

4th.—The competitor must count his trees and cuttings and send report of number planted to the Secretary of this Association on or before the first day of June next.

5th.—The competitor must in the month of October next succeeding Arbor Day, in the presence of two witnesses, count his trees (counting only such as are alive) and make affidavit before a Justice of the

Peace or any officer authorized to administer oaths, as to the following matters:

A.—Whole number of trees planted last Arbor Day and now alive.

B.—Name and number of each kind.

C.—How planted.

D.—How cultivated.

E.—Cost of plantation.

F.—Average size of each species.

And such affidavit shall be certified to by both witnesses of the count; and the officer administering the oath shall certify to the identity and credibility of the competitor and his witnesses.

6th.—All trees planted to compete for these premiums are to be for permanent belts or groves, and not to sell, except as they may be necessarily thinned out when they may have become crowded.

7th.—The affidavits prescribed above to be forwarded to the Secretary at St. Paul by the first day of December next after the count of the trees.

8th.—No clubbing or joining of timber plantations upon owned by different parties, for the purpose of securing the pre will be allowed: every tub must stand on its own bottom.

9th.—Premiums will be awarded at the Annual Session of the Association commencing on the second Tuesday of January next receipt of affidavits, and paid to order of party to whom awarded.

For the purpose of obtaining statistics of timber planting, for information, all persons not competing for the above prizes who may make tree plantations, are requested to furnish the following points of information to the Secretary, in return for which he will be given a copy of the transactions of this Association:

1st.—Acres planted, or rods of trees in line planted.

2d.—Kinds, and number of each kind.

3d.—How many lived and grew well.

4th.—Cost of plantation.

To which append name and address.

In view of the possibility of Arbor day being too cold or too stormy for the work, the next succeeding good would in all probability be recognized by the Association. Our object is to so use the money entrusted to us, accomplish the greatest possible amount of tree planting, and to make our Centennial Arbor Day so memorable that the next hundred years the people of Minnesota can look back on that day's work with unalloyed satisfaction.

By order of the Executive Committee,

**LEONARD B. HODGES,**  
Secretary

St. Paul, March 14th, 1876.  
Pioneer-Press.

**PLEASE POST THIS IN A CONSPICUOUS PLACE.**

P. H. McComber of Garden City, who had, in his words, *seen the snow of 65 winters*, stands out above all other Arbor Day contestants. Senior Citizen McComber admits he had help shoveling the dirt and stamping it down, but says: *with my own hands I set between midnight and midnight seven thousand and twenty-five, all maples*. He goes on to say that if he doesn't win the highest premium, he is cheered by the reflection that he has done something to merit the thanks of those who will come after him.



Early the following year the Association agreed to assist the Lac Qui Parle County Agriculture Society in having the Timber Culture Act amended. The Association referred the request to MSFA Vice President, State Senator Ignatius Donnelly, with instructions to work toward a joint resolution of the Minnesota Legislature encouraging Congress to modify the Act.

Donnelly, a fiery speaker, had been an advocate of tree-planting before the MSFA was founded. He served two terms as Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota and three in the U S Congress. He supported the Grange movement and was a leader in the Anti-Monopoly party. Donnelly also led an investigation which revealed wide-spread fraud and corruption in the Minnesota Timber Industry. Historian William Lass stated Donnelly was the most famous Minnesotan in the late nineteenth century.

In January of 1877, the Association approved paying Secretary Hodges \$300 for his services in 1876 and the same for 1877. They also agreed to distribute free copies of their sixteen-page pamphlet on tree planting entitled *Forest Culture in Minnesota*. Keenly aware of the make-up of their audience, they ordered 2,000 copies in Norwegian, 2,000 in Swedish, 1,000 in German and 5,000 in English.

The Executive Committee appointed Donnelly, Hodges and Trott to award the premiums in the tree planting contest. (Presumably this Trott is Herman Trott, land commissioner and treasurer of the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company. He also held various political offices, including that of Minnesota State Representative.) Unfortunately, most of the contestants had ignored the planting rules imposed by the Minnesota Legislature, which had supplied the prize money. Thus, only \$200 of the available \$2,000 prize money was awarded.

At the annual meeting in January of 1878, Secretary Hodges read his proposal for a bill he hoped Congress would consider in place of the current Timber Culture Act. Later, Hodges pointed out that for only one dollar, a person could become a life-member of the Association. Ignatius Donnelly was chosen to serve as MSFA President for 1878 and at the 1879 annual meeting Donnelly and the other officers were elected to serve for an additional year.

Shortly after the annual meeting the Executive Committee requested the Secretary:

*prepare a manual on tree planting embodying such instructions and directions for tree planting and cultivation as experience and observation have demonstrated to be useful and reliable.*



Ignatius Donnelly



The result was the 172-page *Forest Tree Planters' Manual* by Leonard B. Hodges. ( See p 77 for two sample pages from the twelfth edition of the *Forest Tree Planters' Manual*). In 1879, J. J. Simon printed 5,100 copies of the first edition.

The strong support of railroad executives was a major reason for the early success of the Forestry Association. George Becker, President of the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad, replaced Donnelly in the Presidency in January of 1880. It was Becker who had nominated pioneer railroad executive E. F. Drake as MSFA's first President in 1876 and it was Becker who hired association secretary Hodges to work for the railroad. Drake had built several railroads in Ohio and Indiana and then came west to build Minnesota's first railroad.

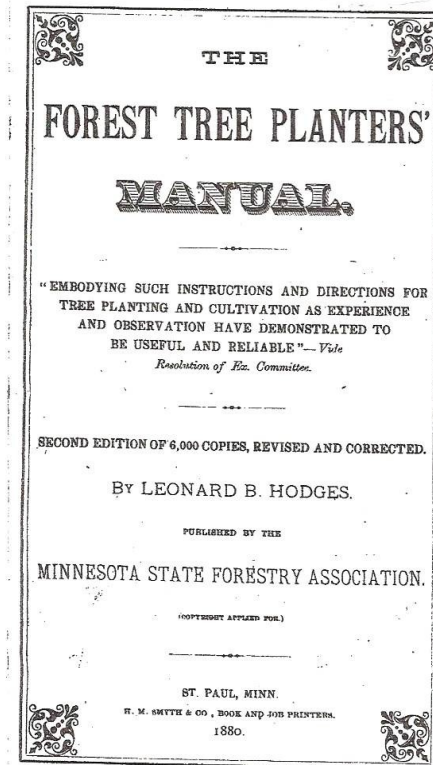
Becker had served as mayor of St. Paul in 1856-1857 and was in the Minnesota Senate from 1868 to 1871. He also ran for governor of Minnesota in 1859 but lost, presumably because he was seen as representing the railroads rather than farmers. Becker finished third behind popular Democratic incumbent Knute Nelson and Populist Sidney Owen.

The State Auditor advised the Executive Committee against printing a second edition of the *Planters' Manual* or, if one was to be published, it should be held to twenty pages. *After mature deliberation* (wrote Secretary Hodges), the committee decided to reprint the manual at about the same cost and length as the current edition. The Secretary was asked to determine:

*If the State Auditor will honor warrants for this purpose upon the unexpended appropriation due this Association.*

Six thousand copies of the 176-page second edition of the *Forest Tree Planters' Manual* were printed by H. M. Smyth and Co. in 1880.

In January of 1881, the Association endorsed former Governor Horace Austin's proposed amendment to the Timber Culture Act. Former Senator and MSFA President Ignatius Donnelly moved that the Association request the Legislature to establish nurseries to supply cuttings and young trees to the people of the treeless regions of the State.



St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba  
RAILWAY COMPANY

Offer for sale, at very low prices, and on easy terms of payment, nearly

**3,000,000 ACRES**

OF THE MOST FERTILE LANDS IN AMERICA,  
ALL IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA,  
And mostly in the far famed

**RED RIVER VALLEY OF THE NORTH,**  
The Great Wheat Garden of the World.

TO ACTUAL SETTLERS IN THE RED RIVER VALLEY,

A REBATE OF NEARLY ONE-HALF THE PURCHASE MONEY IS ALLOWED ON ALL LANDS BROUGHT UNDER CULTIVATION.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, APPLY TO

**D. A. MCKINLAY,**  
Land Commissioner, St. P., M. & M. Ry,  
ST. PAUL, MINN.

An ad from the Manual suggesting why the railroad supported the MFA

Only two weeks later, President Becker brought the news that:

*No voice had been heard [at the legislature] in favor  
of State nurseries from anyone with power to aid*

In that same year the Legislature failed to appropriate any funds for the Association, leaving them financially strapped.

### *Asa Paine*

Early in the twentieth century, Asa Paine of Carlton served on the Executive Committee of the Forestry Association. He was the Vice President for the sixth district under Presidents Loring and Cross (both of whom will be cited later. It was the custom of the Association to elect a Vice President from each of its districts.) There are strong indications that this is the same Asa Paine who was shot by a University of Minnesota faculty member. Paine was *the sophomore son of a Piney woods lumberman from northern Minnesota*.

In May of 1882 professors John Moore and W. A. Pike and University President William W. Folwell came upon Paine and two fellow students running off with the front gate to the President's house. Moore and Pike ran after Paine while the President chased the other two. Pike pulled out a gun and yelled at Paine to stop, which *invited [Paine] to greater speed*. Finally Moore caught the errant sophomore and began beating him with his cane. Paine fell to the ground, took out his pistol, aimed it at Moore and yelled for Moore to stop. (If St. Paul wasn't part of the *Wild West*, it wasn't very far away from it in 1882.) When Pike arrived, he saw the gun pointing at his colleague Moore, so he shot at Paine, hitting him in the thigh.

Fortunately, Paine's wound was not serious but President Folwell and his two faculty members suffered considerably, because they were charged with assault and battery against one of their own students. The Minneapolis Evening Journal put it this way: *Yesterday morning after the usual grist of plain drunks and vagrants had been disposed of in the municipal court, the names of W. W. Folwell, W. A. Pike and J. G. Moore were called by the clerk*.

Both Folwell and Moore pled guilty; Folwell was not punished but Moore was fined \$25. Pike's case was considered by a grand jury, which did not indict him. Paine went to North Pacific Junction, now Carlton, Minnesota. Apparently, he did not graduate from the University.

The St. Paul Pioneer Press screamed *Folwell must go!* He didn't go; in fact, following his presidency he taught Political Science at the University for about 35 years, after which he wrote a four-volume history of Minnesota. Folwell also served as president of the Minnesota Historical Society from 1924 to 1927. Incidentally, Professor W.W. Folwell was at that first meeting of what was to become the MSFA and served on the committee which wrote the Association's constitution.

\* \* \* \* \*

Some other significant events in 1882 were the establishment of the three-mile limit for territorial waters and California's prohibition of Chinese immigration. Tchaikovsky composed the

1812 Overture and Mark Twain published *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. In Minneapolis, the first hydroelectric station in the nation began operation at St. Anthony Falls.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Legislature appropriated \$5,000 to support the Association during 1883 and 1884, so President Becker and Secretary Hodges prepared another edition of the Manual. Unfortunately, Hodges died in April of 1883, shortly before 6,000 copies of the third edition were printed.

In 1883 MSFA Treasurer J. F. Williams had taken over most of Hodges' secretarial duties because Hodges had to travel extensively for his NP Railroad tree planting. Nevertheless, Hodge's death was a serious blow to the Association: *as he was about the only one of the prominent members who had a practical acquaintance with forestry*. As a result, the MSFA was significantly less active following his death.

## ***Chapter II*** ***Hodges's Work with the Connemara***

Recall it was Leonard Hodges who brought potential Association members together for the first MSFA meeting in 1876 and who served as Association Secretary from 1876 until his death in April of 1883. He was born in New York in 1823. By age 23, Hodges was in Iowa founding the village of Hardin. He managed to get a school built and in 1849 became its first teacher. In 1850 he was appointed Hardin's first postmaster. In March of 1854 Hodges and two companions walked from Allamakee County, Iowa to the Minnesota Territory where they established the village of Oronoco. Eventually he was named superintendent of tree planting for the Northern Pacific Railroad. He was elected Minnesota State Senator in 1871 and, because of his statewide reputation for candor and honesty, was chosen by Governor Pillsbury in December of 1880 to investigate claims of neglect and maltreatment of the Irish immigrants whom Bishop Ireland brought from Connemara, Ireland to settle in Graceville, Minnesota in June of 1880.

Only seven weeks after the immigrants arrived in Graceville, there were rumors and even a newspaper article about the allegedly deplorable conditions they were living under. The Connemara apparently had no outside support and thus were destined to enter the approaching winter without enough food, clothing or firewood. Others claimed they were lazy, drank too much and were used to living on welfare. It was also said that they had been given everything they would need to survive, either free or to be repaid under generous terms. Some neighbors maintained the Connemara sold much of what they had been provided. It was even claimed that they hid food and clothing from the investigators, so their situation would look worse than it really was. On the other hand, a number of people defended them by pointing out that they were not farmers and furthermore, had arrived too late in the year to get in a crop and there were very few non-farm jobs available in the area.

The winter of 1880-1881 was one of the worst ever recorded in the history of Minnesota. It was the winter which inspired Laura Ingalls Wilder's Newbery Honor novel *The Long Winter*. Since the first blizzard of the year arrived on October 16<sup>th</sup>, the Connemara were probably not the only people in Minnesota who were not ready for winter.

In spite of some real estate connections Hodges had with the bishop, his blunt report as published in the December 21, 1880 Pioneer Press carried the headline:

*Leonard B. Hodges Has Been There and Tells a Tale of Misery and Destitution that is Sickening to Hear.*

Hodges ends his report with:

*Bishop Ireland blundered when he imported the Connemara; blundered in leaving them to the tender mercies of Ryan, and blundered in his unfortunate letters, interviews and telegrams concerning me.*

Even those who agreed with Mr. Hodges were generally less harsh than he in their judgments. Among those who disagreed with him were Bishop Ireland and the Graceville Catholic priest, Jesuit trained Father Timothy Ryan. Another dissenter was the prominent Dillon O'Brien who was the executive in charge of Bishop Ireland's Catholic Colonization Bureau, edited the North-Western Chronicle (a weekly devoted primarily to Roman Catholic interests) and served on the Minnesota State Board of Immigration. The entire story can be read in Bridget Connelly's excellent 2003 book *Forgetting Ireland*.

The Association did not meet in 1884. Former Minnesota Governor William R. Marshall was elected President for 1885. No money was available from the legislature so the work of the Association was primarily restricted to distributing copies of the *Forest Tree Planters' Manual*.

In 1886 Nathaniel Egleston, the second chief of the USDA Division of Forestry, wrote a long letter, primarily about Arbor Day, in response to questions from C. L. Smith who was soon to become Secretary of the Association. (Smith later wrote the fourth and the 1890, 64 page, fifth editions of the *Forest Tree Planter's Manual*.) The letter was written just two months before Egleston was replaced as Chief by Bernhard Fernow. Fernow had been born in Prussia, where he studied forestry before coming to the United States in 1876. His goal as chief of the USDA was to establish a national forest system and to introduce scientific forestry.

In his letter, Egleston honored the MSFA by crediting the speedy adoption of Arbor Day in other states to: *the success of the observance of the day in Minnesota*. Chief Egleston emphasized the importance of tying the observation of Arbor Day to the public schools because if we can interest children: *in trees and plants and [then] they will see that our forests are protected*. To highlight their agreement with Egleston's emphasis on the youth of Minnesota, Association members requested the Minnesota Superintendent of Public Instruction to:

*call the attention of teachers of the State, to the observance of Arbor Day, and request them to devote at least one day to the instruction of scholars in the principles and objects of tree planting.*

(A wonderful contemporary example of this suggestion is the excellent Spring 2011 Tree Project carried out by Terri Haakenson and her fourth grade class at Cold Spring Elementary School.)

Governor William R. Marshall continued as President for several years. In April of 1889 he announced that the Legislature had provided \$2,000 for the use of the Forestry Association during 1889 and 1890.

\* \* \* \* \*

Elsewhere in Minnesota, iron ore was discovered near Ely in 1890; Minnesota was bursting with 43 nationalities within her borders and had a population of over 1.3 million. The following year saw the establishment of Itasca State Park at the head of the Mississippi and the completion of the J. J. Hill House in St. Paul. From 1893 to 1898 Minnesota, along with the rest of the nation, suffered through its fourth major depression.

\* \* \* \* \*

In order to call the public's attention to the need for tree planting and forest preservation, Secretary Smith was asked to carry out the following activities on behalf of the MSFA:

1. *Publish a revised edition of the Manual.*
2. *Provide free distribution of forestry related pamphlets and circulars.*
3. *Provide lectures on forestry at conventions, fairs and institutes.*
4. *Hold a convention in St. Paul during the next legislative session, with a prominent speaker on forestry.*
5. *Distribute tree seeds and cuttings.*

### ***Man and Nature***

Almost everything the Forestry Association had accomplished since it was founded in 1876 can be traced back to what is considered the first book to examine mankind's interaction with the environment. *Man and Nature* was published in 1864 by George Perkins Marsh, a linguist, lawyer, ambassador, author, teacher, businessman and U.S. Congressman. Marsh's book, which is still in print, appeared in several English editions and in various foreign languages. (Marsh knew twenty languages.) Stewart Udall wrote that Marsh's book was *the beginning of land wisdom in this country*. Many scholars consider *Man and Nature*, *A Sand County Almanac* and *Silent Spring* the three most important books behind the environmental movement.

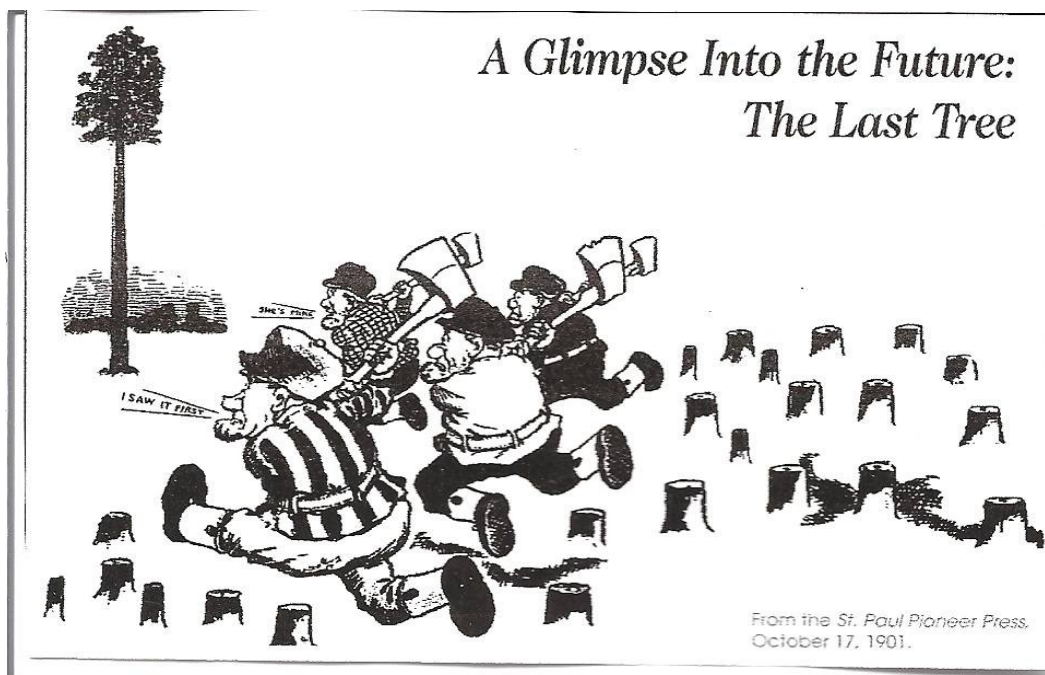
Trees are at the heart of Marsh's concerns. His book helped gain passage of the Timber Culture Act; it promoted tree planting and provided the rationale for protecting American forests. Marsh is considered America's first environmentalist; but he was not a "tree hugger". He favored using the forests, taming nature, but always keeping in mind the consequences of our actions. His was the first book to consider how humans have damaged or even destroyed their own environment. He stressed that deforestation can bring on a host of problems, including erosion and desertification. He pointed out that Americans must learn from the environmental mistakes of earlier cultures:

*The vast forests of the United States and Canada cannot long resist the improvident habits of the backwoodsman and the increased demand for lumber... For prevention of the evils upon which I have so long dwelt, the American people must look to the diffusion of general intelligence on this subject and to the enlightened self interest for which they are remarkable...*

Marsh's other accomplishments include six years representing Vermont in Congress, the last two with fellow Whig Abraham Lincoln, who later appointed Marsh ambassador to Italy. He was minister to Turkey (1849-1854); upon his return Marsh published *The Camel: His Organization, Habits and Uses* and encouraged the formation of a Camel Corps within the U.S. Army. Marsh also helped design the Washington Monument and served for over twenty years as U. S. Ambassador to Italy, where he died in 1882.

In early 1891 the Association considered disbanding, but was dissuaded from doing so by Wyman Elliot and the new Secretary, J. O. Barrett. Incidentally, Barrett was the Alliance party candidate for Lieutenant Governor in 1890, but was defeated by the Republican Gideon Ives. The MSFA again requested funding from the Legislature. In support of their goal of educating the public, they generated a variety of newspaper articles supporting their various causes; later Barrett reported plans for printing 45,000 copies of the *Forest Tree Planters' Manual* in cooperation with the Agricultural Society and the Farmer's Institute.

In 1891 The Minnesota Legislature asked the Federal Government to create a national park in northern Minnesota. The following January the Minneapolis Tribune printed the arguments of the MSFA in support of a forest reserve rather than a park. Such a reserve would follow the German system of forest management, wherein scientific principles of forestry are followed, with controlled harvesting permitted. Arguments for and against a park, a reserve or neither would take over ten years to resolve.



### *Chapter III*

## *The Minnesota Forestry Association at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair*

In January of 1892 the Executive Committee of MSFA voted to have an exhibit at the Chicago World's Fair with a proposed budget of \$10,000. They requested the Minnesota World's Fair Commissioners to procure 3,000 square feet in the forestry building for their exhibit. The 1893 Fair devoted an entire 100,000 square foot building to forestry. In *The History of the World's Fair* we learn that: *The forestry building was one of the most unique and interesting of all ...*

The Association decided to identify their World's Fair display with the educational work of Professor Bernhard Fernow, Chief of the Forestry Division, who was scheduled to honor the MSFA by coming to Minnesota from Washington, D.C. to speak on the subject of *Practical Forestry*. Using his ideas, the suggestion for the exhibit was to show logs and sections of logs used for a variety of manufactured products with estimated amounts of such timber available for harvesting. The Executive Committee also requested samples of wood with both natural and polished surfaces, exhibiting transverse, oblique and other types of cuts. The committee also wanted to display specimens (living if possible) of every plant growing in Minnesota's wood lands, from trees to lichens. In addition, Secretary Barrett and his crew were to prepare displays showing the effects of both deforestation and fire on soil and water conditions. They also requested statistics on the Minnesota logging and lumbering industries and on the results of the various state tree planting programs, including Arbor Day plantings.



South End of Forestry Building." Men standing outside. From *Columbian Gallery: A Portfolio of Photographs of the World's Fair* by The Werner Company. 1893.

To date, no description of the final form of the display or any indication of how well it was received at the fair is available. However, there is the following, passed at the 17th annual meeting:

*Resolved that the thanks of the Association be tendered to the State Board of the World Fair Commissioners for their liberal appropriation and earnest effort to make our forestry exhibit at the World's Fair a success.*

In 1893, the same year as the fair, the Association met with the State Horticultural Society to discuss forest fire prevention and the promotion of lumbering and scientific forestry. In early 1894, the Honorable J. O. Barrett emphasized the crucial role played by the Minnesota State Horticultural Society in helping the MSFA survive its darkest hours. He said the Horticultural Society :

*...took the mantle of responsibility on its shoulders and the Forestry Association breathed in Resurrection and lived to see a brighter day.*

The Legislature awarded the MSFA \$1,500 for each of 1894 and 1895, to be used to encourage tree planting, distribute seeds and plants, gather information on forest fires and their prevention and to publish and distribute another edition of the *Forest Tree Planters' Manual*. As we have seen, at times the Legislature was generous in funding the Association. However, it appears that over time their generosity waned, perhaps due in part to the need to fund the state's own forestry agencies and the University School of Forestry.

S. M. Owens replaced John Stevens in the President's Chair for 1894 while Barrett continued as Secretary. Stevens, a veteran of the Mexican War, served two terms in the Minnesota House and one in the State Senate. Owens was editor of *Farm, Stock and Home* and served on the board of the Minnesota State Agriculture Society. He was a staunch Republican but switched to the Farmer's Alliance party and later was the gubernatorial candidate of the Populist Party (the successor to the Alliance). In planning their activities for the coming year, Association leaders focused primarily on education, the area which remains the primary focus of today's Minnesota Forestry Association. Their 1894 plans included printing 10,000 copies of Secretary Barrett's *How to Manage Seeds, Seedlings and Cuttings* and the publication of a pamphlet of practical instruction in forestry, especially tree culture on the prairies of Minnesota.

Money was set aside for the publication of the tenth edition of *The Tree Planter's Manual* and to allow the secretary to continue distributing forest seeds and plants. They also decided to continue their arrangement with Professor William R. Dobbyn, publisher of *The Progressive Age*. Dobbyn, who was a member of the MSFA Executive Committee, had agreed to publish the Secretary's weekly articles on practical forestry for \$25 per month. Dobbyn had a Doctorate in English from Cornell and besides his weekly urban reform newspaper, he edited and published the *Osteopathic Yearbook*. Interestingly, in 1896 Dobbyn teamed up with fellow MSFA member S. M. Owen to prevent former MSFA President Ignatius Donnelly from obtaining a leadership position at the People's Party convention in St Louis.

In September of 1894, a tragedy of immense proportions struck Minnesota. Four hundred and eighty square miles of forest near Hinckley were consumed by a *cyclone of fire*, killing over 400 people. One month later, members of the Forestry Association met with several other organizations to write a forest fire bill for presentation to the Legislature. Naturally, fire prevention was also one of the topics discussed at the annual meeting of the MSFA in January of 1895.

The forest fire bill became law in April and a 65 year-old Civil War Major General Christopher Columbus Andrews was appointed Minnesota's first Chief Fire Warden. Before the war,



Andrews served in the Minnesota Senate, and in 1861, with Sylvanus Lowry, published the St. Cloud Union. Jane Grey Swisshelm, the abolitionist editor of the *St. Cloud Visitor*, strongly opposed Lowry, a southern slaveholder who became St. Cloud's first mayor. After the war, he served in several positions in the Federal Government and was instrumental in the construction of the Minnesota Veteran's Home in Minneapolis. Just nine days before the Hinckley Fire, Andrews addressed the American Forestry Association on: *The Prevention of Forest Fires*.

The Executive Committee decided in 1895 that the MSFA needed its own forestry library and set aside \$25 for periodicals and books. In his *Report on Forestry* in December of 1895, Secretary Barrett reminded his fellow Association members of the continued importance of their cooperation with the Horticultural Society, a collaboration which benefited both groups. He also discussed the *newly awakened interest in tree planting on the open prairie* and went on to list several significant accomplishments of the Association, including the distribution of over 700,000 pamphlets and circulars. He gave special emphasis to the recent publication and distribution of the pamphlet *Forestry in Our Schools*.

A newspaper account of the 1895 annual meeting, written by Barrett, reminds readers that the MSFA went through a dark and difficult period but:

*not a man among us flinched from duty. You know the result. Today our Association is regarded by foresters as one of the most persistent and effectual in the United States.*

At this distance, we have no way of knowing how objective Secretary Barrett's evaluation of the Association was, but we do know that by 1895, it had survived for almost twenty years and many of its goals had been met.

During the Civil War, Barrett had been appointed chaplain of the 8<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry but the war ended before his services were needed. Nonetheless, he did write a 136- page biography of the eagle "Old Abe" which accompanied his regiment in 36 battles, including Fredericktown, Vicksburg and Bayou Roberts. Barrett was a Universalist minister in Wisconsin and a tree planter in Brown's Valley, Minnesota. He served for many years as Secretary of the MSFA and prepared the tenth edition of *The Forest Tree Planters' Manual*, which was printed in 1894.

The annual meeting in January of 1896 was a two-day conference to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the MSFA. Two of the featured speakers were Fire Warden C. C. Andrews, speaking on *The Prevention and Suppression of Forest Fires* and Dr. Charles Hewitt, Secretary of the Board of Health, whose presentation was entitled *The Relation of Forestry To Public Health*. Dr. Hewitt told the group that trees are the bellows that work the lungs.

## *Chapter IV* *The Cross Era*

However, the Conference paper which generated the most interest was *To the Owners of Large Pine Land Areas in Minnesota* by Captain Judson N. Cross. Captain Cross, a graduate of Columbia Law School, had been an officer in the Civil War and later moved to Minneapolis. He was City Attorney during the time John S. Pillsbury's brother George was mayor of Minneapolis. In his paper, Cross outlined a plan for the transfer of cut-over lands to the State of Minnesota for forest reserves in a manner beneficial to both the State and the grantor.

Later in 1896, Cross gave a second reading of his *Plan for Forest Preservation*. Former Governor John Pillsbury enthusiastically endorsed the proposal, which became known as the *Minnesota Plan*. Under the bill, a nine-member forestry board would manage state-owned Forest Reserves containing designated state lands or lands deeded to the state for forestry purposes by any person or by the United States. The main feature of his plan was that it encouraged individuals to deed cut-over, waste or abandoned land, unsuitable for agriculture, to the state for forestry purposes.

After 12 years in office, Fernow was replaced by Gifford Pinchot in 1898. Pinchot graduated from Yale and then went to France to study forestry and in 1896 was appointed to the National Forestry Commission which was established to recommend a national forest policy. Later he served two terms as governor of Pennsylvania. Later, Pinchot would proclaim his preference to *raise trees instead of potatoes*.

In 1898 Captain Cross suggested that Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan discuss cooperative forest management and join in pressuring Congress for donations of Federal land more suitable for forestry than agriculture to the states. One week later President Owen appointed a committee of three to consider a joint meeting of the forestry associations of the three states.

In the same year, another book-length publication of the MSFA, *Forestry in Minnesota*, appeared. The 1899 *Legislative Manual of Minnesota* reported that:

*By far the best publication the society has ever issued is its recent one entitled "Forestry in Minnesota" by S. B. Green, professor of horticulture and forestry in the University. It is, doubtless, one of the best and most concise works on the Subject ever published. Many schools and colleges have already introduced it.*

In 1899 only a few of the original 10,000 copies of Green's book remained. The Association had them bound in cloth and distributed to any Minnesotan for 25 cents, the cost of binding and postage; nonresidents had to pay 40 cents. The 401 page second edition was published in 1902 by the Geological and Natural History Survey in Minnesota.

The Captain Cross bill was back on the agenda at the annual meeting in 1899 because, after passing the Minnesota House, it failed in the Finance Committee of the Senate. The MSFA reiterated its support for the bill in the hope that it would be passed in the next legislative session.

At this meeting they also discussed the efforts of Chicago attorney, Col. J.S. Cooper, to establish a National Park at the headwaters of the Mississippi. General Andrews gave the invited address, entitled *Utilizing our Wasteland for Forestry Purposes*.

Later in 1899 the Legislature made a significant step forward when it finally passed the Cross Bill. Minnesotans today continue to enjoy the benefits of the bill, which created the Minnesota State Forestry Board to manage lands donated to the state for forestry purposes. The MSFA chose Judson Cross as its representative on the newly created board. In 1900 Association member Governor John S. Pillsbury made the first donation, a 1,000- acre piece of cut-over pine land in Cass County, part of what later became the Pillsbury State Forest. The state's first tree nursery was established on the Pillsbury land in 1903.

Cross was elected MSFA President and George Strand Secretary. Both were re-elected at the twenty-fourth annual meeting, at which S. M. Owen spoke on *Forest Conditions and Management in Switzerland*. In Owen's judgment, Switzerland had: *one of the best examples of state socialism and also the finest system of forest economy in existence*.

**ARTICLE VIII.**

The officers of this Society shall be elected annually by ballot, and shall hold their offices until their successors shall be elected.

**ARTICLE IX.**

Every member shall be entitled to copies of the transactions of the Society as often as the same shall be published, and it shall be the duty of the secretary to forward the same to each member by mail, express or otherwise, immediately after publication.

**ARTICLE X.**

The executive committee may call a meeting of the Society at any time and place they may deem advisable, by a notice of at least ten days in the public press.

**ARTICLE XI.**

The Association shall hold annual meetings at such place and time as the executive committee shall determine, and notice of such time and place of meeting shall be mailed each member at least two weeks prior to said meeting.

**ARTICLE XII.**

Any person may become a member of this Society by the payment of one dollar to the secretary.

**ARTICLE XIII.**

It shall be the duty of the executive committee to prepare a programme of exercises for each annual meeting, assigning to each division of arboriculture an essay of paper, to be furnished by some member specially qualified for this service.

**ARTICLE XIV.**

The president and secretary shall have power to appoint delegates to meetings of kindred associations.

**ARTICLE XV.**

This Constitution may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any annual meeting.

**WHO SHOULD BECOME MEMBERS?**

The matter of forest protection and tree planting should concern each individual; for directly or indirectly the condition and position of our forest areas, and the relative influences they inevitably exert, must necessarily affect the welfare of the entire State. Therefore, we urgently request all persons interested in tree growth to ally themselves with the Association.

**OFFICERS FOR 1899.**

\* \* \* \* \*

**PRESIDENT,**  
Judson N. Cross, - - - Minneapolis.

**SECRETARY,**  
Geo. W. Strand, - - - Taylors Falls.

**TREASURER,**  
R. S. Mackintosh, - - St. Anthony Park.

**VICE-PRESIDENTS.**  
1st Dist.—Wm. Somerville, - - - Viola.  
2d Dist.—Alfred Terry, - - - Slayton.  
3d Dist.—O. F. Brand, - - - Faribault.  
4th Dist.—W. P. Allen, - - - St. Paul.  
5th Dist.—S. M. Owen, - - - Minneapolis.  
6th Dist.—Asa Paine, - - - Carlton.  
7th Dist.—O. A. Th. Solem, - - - Halstad.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,**  
Col. J. H. Stevens, - - - Minneapolis.  
A. W. Latham, - - - Minneapolis.  
J. S. Harris, - - - La Crescent.  
Prof. S. B. Green, - - - St. Anthony Park.  
H. B. Ayres, - - - Carlton.

1876 ..The... 1899

**Minnesota State Forestry Association**

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ORGANIZED AND INCORPORATED 1876

**FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND PROMOTION OF PRACTICAL FORESTRY.**

\* \* \* \* \*

YOUR CO-OPERATION IS INVITED. MEMBERSHIP FEE ONE DOLLAR.

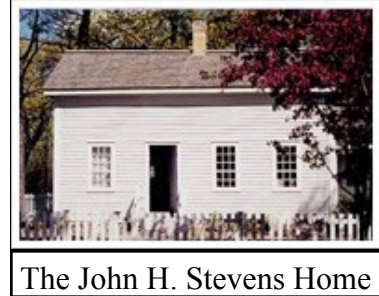
Address all Correspondence to  
**GEO. W. STRAND, Secretary,**  
Taylors Falls, Minnesota.

\* \* \* \* \*

In 1900 Minnesota held the first direct primary in the United States and the Gopher State produced enough pine to build a nine- foot wide board walk encircling the globe at the equator. Gifford Pinchot and colleagues founded the Society of American Foresters (SAF) and a year later, sportsman and enthusiastic conservationist Theodore Roosevelt became President after the assassination of President McKinley. More on the Pinchot/Roosevelt relationship later.

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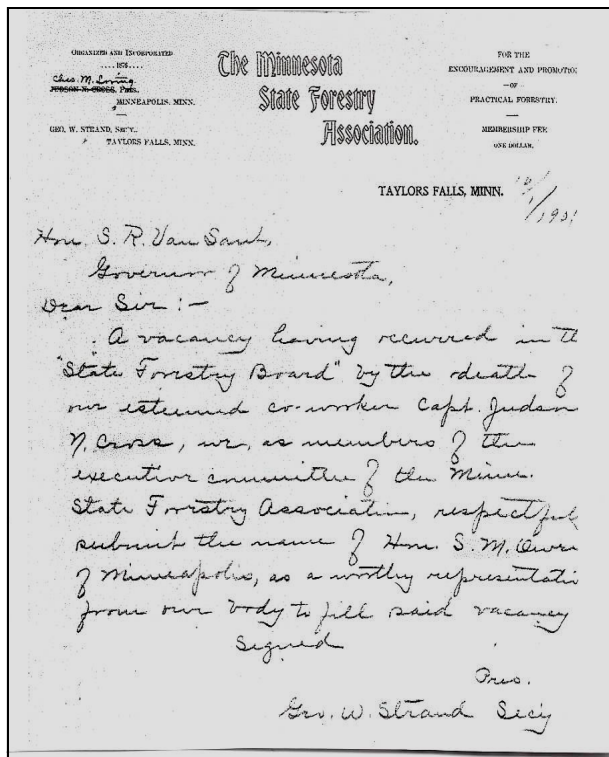
President Cross had the honor of presiding over the twenty-fifth annual meeting, held jointly with the Horticultural Society in Plymouth Church on December 6th, 1900. Association members expressed their sorrow occasioned by the death of Colonel John Stevens, a founding member of the MSFA, the Minnesota Horticultural Society and the State Agricultural Society. Steven's house was the first permanent settler's home on the West bank of the Mississippi and thus he is known as the *Father of Minneapolis*.



The John H. Stevens Home

Those assembled adopted a resolution asking that forfeited tax sale lands not suitable to agriculture be turned over to the recently created State Forestry Board. Cross discussed the role of the Forestry Association as he saw it on the twenty-fifth anniversary of its founding:

*Its province is to be enthusiastic and even radical by nature. It must be continued as the organized popular power back of advanced forestry movement. As such it must keep the people informed, prod them when they become indifferent and appeal to them in order to awaken an earnest interest which will react in the law-making power.*



Secretary George Strand added the following comments, which point out that the goals of the Association had changed significantly since its founding twenty-five years earlier:

*Instead of the main issue being the encouragement of prairie planting, it is merging into that great question which demands the best of statesmanship to handle – that of the protection and reforestation of our native timber tracts.*

In October of 1901 the Executive Committee recommended that former President Owens fill the position of recently deceased Judson Cross as the MSFA's representative on the State Forestry Board. An apparently healthy Cross had passed away suddenly on August 31<sup>st</sup>. He was President of the Forestry Board at the time of his death and had served as president of the MSFA in 1899 and 1900. Cross had attended Oberlin College from 1855 until his enlistment in the

Union Army in 1861. While in the army he was severely wounded and was captured twice, but eventually rose to the rank of captain. Cross graduated from law school in 1866 and moved to Minneapolis in 1875. *The American Forester* said: *his profession was the law and his hobby forestry.*

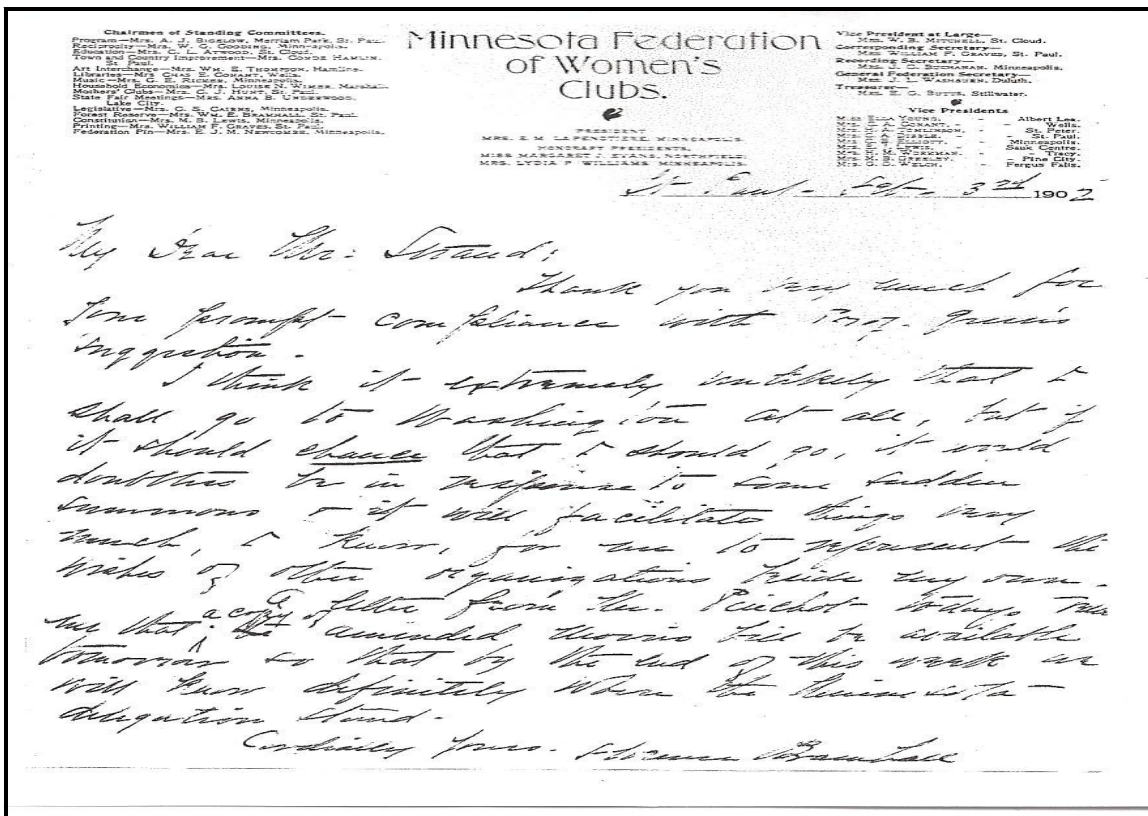
At the annual meeting the following year, it was Secretary Strand's unpleasant duty to report that, due to insufficient funds, the Association had not accomplished much during 1901.

## Chapter V The Chippewa National Forest

One of the invited speakers at that 1901 meeting was Florence Bramhall, chairwoman of the Forestry Committee of the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs. Her presentation, entitled *The Present Status of the Park Question*, dealt with the issue, first discussed in 1891, of creating, in Minnesota, a forest reserve, a national park or neither. She and the Federation were still campaigning to protect about 400,000 acres of woodland in north-central Minnesota. The land, near the headwaters of the Mississippi, was in danger of being sold.

Earlier, rhetoric professor Maria Sanford stepped into the debate about protecting that land. She was a strong advocate of preserving it as a park. However, in hope of coming to agreement with park opponents, those in favor reduced the requested acreage and sought a forest reserve rather than a park. The word *park* was dropped because many viewed a park as a playground for residents of Minneapolis and St. Paul. The struggle to establish the reserve, later known as the Minnesota National Forest, was led by the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs, with help from the Forestry Association and other organizations.

In 1902 Duluth Congressman R. Page Morris introduced a bill to establish the reserve. His bill was opposed by the lumber industry and by many residents of the affected districts. However, the bill passed, largely due to the efforts of the Federation of Women's Clubs. Later the reserve

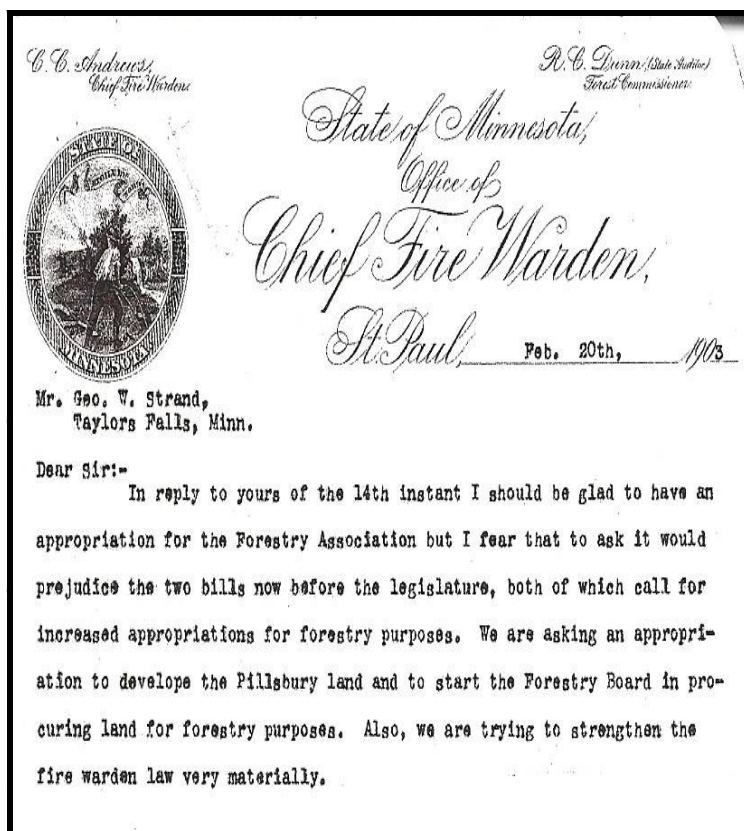


A letter from Florence Bramhall

was incorporated into the Minnesota National Forest and still later it was included in the Chippewa National Forest. Forestry Chief Gifford Pinchot praised the Morris Bill as: *the first application of forestry to government owned forests in America...* However, some lumber companies were so upset by the act that Pinchot felt it necessary **to mail his local inspector a pistol.**

Besides establishing the reserve, the Morris Bill also made a major advance in woodland fire protection. It required that all slash be piled and burned, thus removing one ready source of fuel for forest fires.

President Charles Loring, presiding over the 27<sup>th</sup> annual meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 1902, suggested a \$1.00 rebate on taxes for every two roadside trees planted. Interestingly, using the Consumer Price Index scale, \$1 in 1902 is worth about \$24 today. Alternatively, if we look at the value of a bundle of consumer goods, that dollar converts to approximately \$61 in today's market.



At Loring's suggestion, Secretary Strand requested that Chief Fire Warden Christopher Andrews lend his support to an appropriation for the Forestry Association. At that time Andrews served under State Auditor R.C.Dunn, who was ex-officio Forest Commissioner. Chief Andrews replied that to support the MSFA request would likely jeopardize his own requests from the Legislature. An examination of those requests gives us a rare insight into the Chief's priorities for Minnesota forestry. He sought funding:

*To develop (sic) Pillsbury land and to start the Forestry Board in procuring land for forestry purposes. Also, we are trying to strengthen the fire warden law very materially.*

In January of 1903 President Loring announced that the Association was to have a series of articles about forestry in the *Times* (presumably the *Minneapolis Times*) but he was concerned about how to circulate the articles to their "country friends".

In August of 1903 the American Forestry Association had their annual meeting in Minneapolis. The first meeting of the AFA had been in 1875, just six months before the first meeting of the MSFA. For this nationwide group to meet in Minnesota suggests that the Minnesota Forestry Association had a national reputation as an effective organization. At that

Minneapolis meeting the AFA attacked abuses under the Forest Reserve mining laws, stating that the: *laws under which mineral entries are made within the forest reserves are a menace to the reserves....*

At the annual meeting of the MSFA in 1903, William Cox was elected Secretary and Treasurer for the following year; Charles Loring was retained in the Presidency. As a youngster, Loring's shipmaster father took him on several voyages to the West Indies, hoping to interest him in pursuing the life of a sea captain. Minnesota, and Minneapolis in particular, benefited from young Charles' decision to reject the sea and move west for a career in merchandising, real estate and milling. In addition to his business interests and his work with the Forestry Association, Loring was involved in a wide variety of civic affairs, most notably his efforts to develop several parks in Minneapolis, for which he became known as the *father of the park system of Minneapolis*. Loring Park is named in his honor.

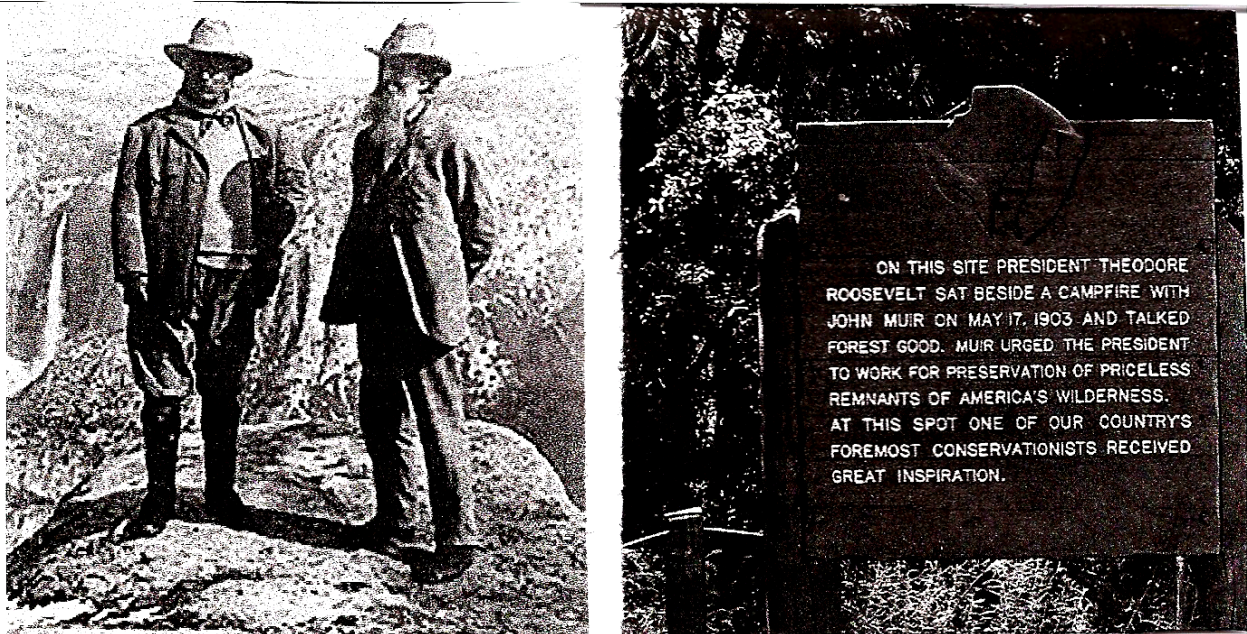
At that 1903 meeting, Loring again urged state legislation to encourage roadside tree planting. Mrs. Bramhall of the Women's Federation returned, this time to discuss the effect of the Morris Bill on the Chippewa Indians. Much of the land in the Forest Reserve created by the Morris Bill came from Chippewa Indian reservations. The Association passed a motion urging Minnesota's congressional delegation to attempt to secure just compensation to the Indians for their losses under the Morris Bill. Today many agree that Native Americans were not adequately compensated for the land they gave up.

Soon the Minnesota Forest Reserve would become the first national forest east of the Mississippi and would eventually be known as the Chippewa National Forest. Some six months before the above 1903 annual meeting, two of America's most influential conservationists went on a three-day camping trip on Glacier Point in what would become Yosemite National Park. Afterwards, Theodore Roosevelt and John Muir worked together to expand the *Reserved Forest Lands* established by Congress in 1890. Then in 1905, with their encouragement, California ceded Yosemite Valley and the Mariopa Grove to federal control. In 1906 Congress included them, along with the Reserved Lands, within the boundaries of Yosemite National Park.

Conservation issues played a major role throughout Roosevelt's presidency. During his time in office, protected forest acreage increased from about 40 million acres to almost 200 million. On July 1, 1908 Roosevelt commemorated the tenth anniversary of his widely celebrated leadership in the battle of San Juan Heights by, among other things, creating 45 new national forests throughout eleven western states. In all, he established over 150 national forests and doubled the number of national parks from five to ten. (See Muir and Roosevelt on page 24)

Association Secretary Cox called attention to the rapid growth of the forestry movement elsewhere: *in all civilized countries and their colonies*. He also took pride in reminding his audience that Minnesota had four forestry related institutions to serve its citizens: their own Minnesota State Forestry Association, the State Forestry Board, the Chief Fire Warden with his organization and the Forestry Department at the University.

Mrs. Lydia Phillips Williams of Minneapolis addressed the meeting on *Forestry Related to the Farm*. Mrs. Williams was a director of the well-known General Federation of Women's



**In 1903 Theodore Roosevelt teamed with fellow exuberant John Muir for an extended hiking trip in Yosemite. Roosevelt was a committed conservationist long before that, but after the Yosemite trip he exhibited even greater urgency. Roosevelt created five national parks, 150 national forests and 51 bird refuges.**

*Any fool could destroy trees, they can't run away.*

*John Muir*

*We do not intend our natural resources to be exploited by the few against the interests of the many.*

*Theodore Roosevelt*

*The Battle we have fought and are still fighting for the forests is a part of the eternal conflict between right and wrong... So we must count on watching and striving for these trees, and should always be glad to find anything so sturdy and noble to strive for.*

*John Muir*

*There can be no greater issue than that of conservation in this country. We must conserve the forests, not by disuse, but by use, making them more valuable at the same time that we use them.*

*Theodore Roosevelt*



Clubs which, she asserted:

*stands as an army of active women 800,000 strong, ready to march to the assistance of the overworked forestry regulars.*

She was chair of the Forestry Committee which was composed of all of the women who chaired the various State Federation Forestry Committees. MFA member Jim Towler remembers a plaque in his grandparents' house in 1948, honoring his grandmother for contributing to the Federation's Minnesota tree planting project.

State Entomologist F. L. Washburn discussed the White Pine weevil, a pest of that era which remains a problem today, especially in central and southern Minnesota. There was also a talk entitled *Federal Aid for Tree Planters* and another on *Suitable Trees for our Prairies and Road-sides*.

Those assembled decided to keep the annual dues at \$1 but to charge \$10 for a lifetime membership. They also voted to amend the constitution, making the MSFA an auxiliary of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. It is not known if the Association followed through to formally become an auxiliary, but we do know the two organizations continued to work together. It was also agreed to ask the State Legislature to more generously provide for:

1. *the prevention of forest fires,*
2. *the planting of the Pillsbury Reserve in Cass County,*
3. *the proper management of the 20,000 acres in St. Louis County given to the state by the United States Congress, and*
4. *the purchase and reforestation of waste lands.*

In his 1904 Presidential address, Charles Loring eloquently pointed out that:

*Prairies once dotted with buildings standing exposed to the sun and wind now have masses of foliage screening the buildings, which seem like beautiful islands in an emerald sea.*

The point of Mr. Loring's presentation was that the MSFA had accomplished a great deal since its founding in 1876 and a modest appropriation from the State Legislature would enable the Association to continue its work:

*Let us in Minnesota lead in forestry, as we do in so many branches of agriculture and horticulture and in a few years the state will become as noted for its beauty as it is now for its industries!*

Or as Ludwig Von Beethoven said in a letter of 1810:

*How delighted I shall be to ramble for a while through bushes, woods, under trees, through grass and around rocks. No one can love the country as much as I do. For surely woods, trees, and rocks produce the echo which man desires to hear.*

### *Minnesota's Mythical Master Logger*

Every article on the history of forestry is required to at least mention Paul Bunyan, Minnesota's most well-known logger. States from Maine to California claim Paul as their own but, as we shall see, Minnesota may have a slightly stronger claim than most. Since Paul evidently burst into print in about 1904, this is a good place to fulfill our Bunyan obligation.

The Paul Bunyan oral tradition goes back to at least the 1880s. However, the first mention of Paul in print was probably in the *Duluth Evening News* in the summer of 1904. Subsequently, he was mentioned in several other print venues in various eastern states and in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. However, it is likely that promotional materials for the Red River Lumber Company of Minneapolis, first published in 1914, are what made the Bunyan story popular. In addition to the above Minnesota connections, everyone knows Minnesota's 10,000 lakes were formed by Babe and Paul's enormous footprints as they traveled throughout our northern Pineries.



If anyone has doubts about the flesh and blood existence of Paul in Minnesota, be aware that he was listed on the program as one of the after-dinner speakers at the 1990 annual meeting of the MFA at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota.

### *Returning to MSFA History*

Mrs. Williams, Minnesota State Forestry Association secretary in 1905, reported on The National Forest Congress which she attended in Washington. She was encouraged that representatives of commercial and industrial interests spoke in favor of conservation forestry. Following her report on the Congress, Mrs. Williams expressed her dismay that *certain selfish local interests* were working to repeal the 1902 Morris Act, which set aside Minnesota's 225,000-acre forest reserve from land on the Ojibwa Reservation. Following Williams, Mrs. J. B. Hudson told of her visit to the reserve and gave a spirited defense of the suitability of the land for forestry.

Also at that meeting George Maxwell, chair of the National Irrigation Congress, gave a *thrilling and convincing address* arguing that forestry, irrigation and drainage are but different aspects of the same phenomenon. He added:

*If you keep chopping down your trees, the time is coming when the now magnificent state of MN will be a barren desert, despoiled and void of vegetation, over which hungry jackals and frantic hyenas will prowl.*

After Maxwell's address, Mrs. Williams explained that the Minnesota Legislature's April 1904 request that Congress allow development on the Minnesota Forest Reserve at Cass Lake was misleading and had been passed without any discussion. She then offered a resolution urging Congress to ignore the Legislature's request and to enforce the original conditions of the Reserve. After a spirited discussion, her resolution passed with only one dissenting vote. President Loring then read a paper on the value of shade trees which he illustrated with a magic-lantern show.

\* \* \* \* \*

What was going on in the rest of the world in 1905? In Europe, Norway's parliament dissolved the union between Sweden and Norway and in France the Third Republic established state secularism. Einstein published the Special Theory of Relativity and in Chicago the Rotary Club was founded. The first theater in the world devoted exclusively to motion pictures was built in Pittsburgh and Duluth's Aerial Gondola Bridge (the forerunner of today's Lift Bridge) was completed in 1905.

\* \* \* \* \*

Contrary to its earlier practice, the Minnesota Legislature had not provided any financial support to the MSFA since 1899. This prompted the Minnesota Horticulture Society, close allies of the Association for many years, to intercede on their behalf. In light of the MSFA's: *great influence for good in advancing our forestry interest on the prairies and the cut-over timber lands of Minnesota*, the Horticulture Society requested that the 1905 Legislature resume its practice of providing an annual appropriation for the Association.

MSFA Secretary Lydia Williams spoke at the June 1906 Biennial Convention of the National Federation of Women's Clubs in St. Paul about the forestry congress which she had earlier reported on to the MSFA. Mrs. Williams recalled her *exultant thrill* when President Teddy Roosevelt enthused that as a direct result of the congress, future forestry conservation would come from: *men who are actively interested in the use of the forest* rather than from outsiders whose sole concern was preservation. (The use of the word *men* in this context must have been particularly insulting, given the indispensable role of the Women's Federation in establishing Minnesota's Chippewa National Forest.) Further, Williams affirmed that:

*For the first time in the history of forestry all the great commercial and industrial interests of the country were represented by delegates advocating a conservative management of the forests.*

Before the conclusion of her impassioned report, she added that: *the enemies of the Minnesota Reserve have been check-mated* although the Indian Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives still had to determine the boundaries of the Reserve.

Secretary Williams' enthusiasm was nearly matched by Enos Mills' flowery presentation, in which he said:

*where once the forest spread away like a sea are but the broken and blackened columns of the templed grove. Even these marvelous wilds wherein the father of waters finds his source are now threatened by the sawdust giant who desires to mutilate these gardens for gold.*

When the American Forestry Association met in Washington, D.C. in January of 1908, Minnesota's own Samuel Green moved to support the Davis Bill, which was working its way through Congress. Under that bill, Congress would appropriate \$5,000 for each state and territory for forestry education and experimentation.

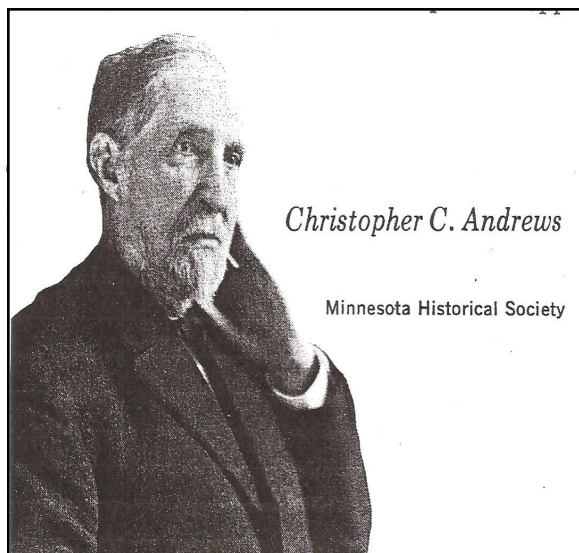
## **Chapter VI**

### ***The Birth of The Minnesota Forester***

The first issue of *The Minnesota Forester* appeared in January of 1908. It was a 12- page monthly publication described as the *Official Bulletin of the Minnesota Forestry Association*. It was edited by the Division of Forestry at the University of Minnesota. Their collaboration was for the purpose of educating "young men" to solve the forestry problems of the future.

In the fourth issue of the Bulletin, the editors expressed appreciation for the many favorable comments they had received but shared their concern that the earlier appeal for donations to support the publication had brought but a *hesitating dribble*.

M. O. Nelson, secretary of the Cedarmen's Association, was elected at the 1908 annual meeting to replace MSFA President Owen. The Northwestern Cedarmen's Association, based in Minneapolis, determined standards for the various grades of cedar shingles and poles. A promising innovation at that meeting was the inclusion of presentations by forestry students from the University of Minnesota.



*Christopher C. Andrews*

Minnesota Historical Society

In his annual report for 1908, Forestry Commission chair Christopher Andrews laid out the rationale for a reforestation amendment to the Minnesota Constitution. The general was well known to the Association; he first became a member in 1880. His proposal would raise about \$300,000 each year for the purchase of land and the establishment and maintenance of forests on the land *according to forestry principles*. His report included many letters of support for the proposed amendment, including one from J. J. Hill who told Andrews his plan for the cut-over pine lands was: *well worthy of the best efforts of all the people in the state*. General Andrews himself declared that if Minnesota:

*has public spirit to undertake it, she would at once be in the front rank, if not the lead, of all the states in reforestation.*

Unfortunately, Minnesotans rejected the two forestry-related constitutional amendments submitted to them by the 1909 Legislature. One of them was similar to Commissioner Andrews' proposal; the other would have encouraged the practice of forestry by exempting certain lands from taxation. A later proposal to pay an annual bounty: *to any person who shall plant, cultivate and protect useful forest trees upon his own land* also failed.

In 1908 Congress established the 190,000 acre Minnesota National Forest and made the Forest Service responsible for its management. The forest included much of the land set aside as a Reserve by the Morris Act in 1902. An executive order in 1928 changed the name of the Minnesota National Forest to the Chippewa National Forest. In 1909 President and outdoorsman Teddy Roosevelt created the 900,000 acre Superior National Forest.

### *There's Gold in that Sand!*

MSFA supporter Fred Bessette used the Association's 1913 Bulletin to tell about the brief but unusual career he enjoyed before becoming a Minnesota Forest Ranger. In 1909 he was one of the *prospectors* who investigated several locations in St. Louis and Koochiching counties where sand samples showed significant amounts of gold. Assays determined that glacial deposits of sand, covering a wide area, definitely contained gold. The Minnesota gold rush was on! Sadly, they soon realized it was not possible to profitably extract the gold at that time.

An earlier gold rush occurred three years after Leonard Hodges laid out the village of Oronoco where gold was found in the soil on the banks of the Zumbro River. In 1858 the Oronoco Mining Company constructed a 900- yard sluice and soon about 90 men were searching for gold in the area. The venture failed a year later; mining was restarted in 1934 but failed again. Gold was also discovered at Vermilion Lake in 1865. In April of that year, Minnesota Governor Stephen Miller appointed the state's second geologist, Henry Eames, to carry out a geological survey of the northeastern region of the state. In August of 1865 the governor sent a request to the U. S. mint for a quick analysis of a gold sample obtained by Eames. In September the Governor received the report, which gave the value of gold in a ton of sample at \$25.63. On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1865, the Minnesota Gold Mining Company was established. Former Governor Henry H. Sibley was president of the new company and Governor Stephen Miller was secretary. By May of 1866 it was estimated there were over 100 gold-seekers working around the lake. None of them struck it rich and the Vermilion rush was over by 1868. There was another gold *discovery* in 1880 near the Falls Lake region and another west of Ely in 1894.

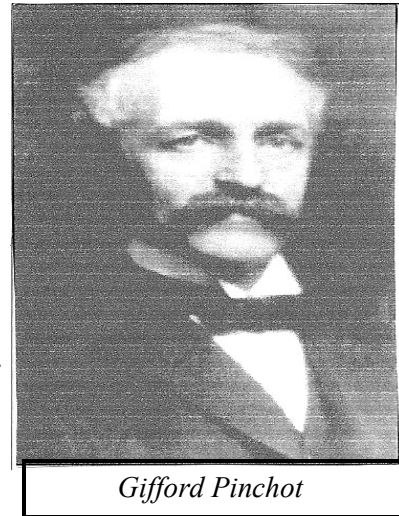
The editor of *The Minnesota Forester* regularly stressed the advantages of living in a state well-endowed with healthy forests. In 1909 he said:

*Compare the neat frame homesteads of Minnesota with the sod huts of the Nebraska plains and the advantage is apparent.*

Of course his unstated goal was to convince readers that the Minnesota cut-over lands unsuited to agriculture should be reforested.

The same issue of the *Forester* reported an event destined to have a profound effect on the University's School of Forestry. Professor Green persuaded the Weyerhaeuser family to donate over 2,000 acres of forest land to the school for what was to become the University's Forestry Experimental Station. Often called the school's *hidden treasure*, it has been the site of many significant forestry research projects.

The MSFA's *Forester* also carried a summary of the controversy between U.S. Chief Forester Gifford Pinchot and Richard Ballinger, President Taft's appointee as head of the Department of the Interior. Pinchot was a close friend of former President Roosevelt and a strong supporter of Roosevelt's ambitious conservation program. Secretary Ballinger felt Roosevelt had put too much public land into reserve status so opened some of it to commercial use. This angered Pinchot, who went public with his complaints about Ballinger and the Reserves. There was an investigation of Ballinger and his actions (Minnesota's senator Knute Nelson chaired the Senate investigating committee). In the end, Ballinger was exonerated and Chief Forester Pinchot was unemployed.



Gifford Pinchot

J. E. Rhodes, secretary to Frederick A. Weyerhaeuser, spoke on the relation of lumbermen to the forestry movement at the Association's annual meeting in December of 1909. Later Rhodes published a paper on that topic in the *Forestry Quarterly* in which he said that since 1898:

*the consumption of lumber increased beyond all precedent, and continued in a large way up to the close of 1907, when it was checked by the panic. During the ten years from 1898 to 1907, the abnormal demand for lumber was at times beyond the ability of the mills to supply.*

The 1907 Panic was a U.S. financial crisis; stocks fell 50% and there were many runs on banks and trust companies. From 1900 to 1908 the U. S. population increased 22% while the per capita consumption of lumber increased by almost 300%.

Rhodes, who was Secretary of the Northern Pine Manufacturer's Association prior to his work for Weyerhaeuser, became a faculty member at the Minnesota School of Forestry in 1909. The following year he was elected President of the Minnesota Forestry Association.

The *Minnesota Forester* summarized the status of lumber production in Minnesota in 1910. Lumber production had reached its peak in about 1900; in 12 years Minnesota went from fourth to ninth place in the production of lumber in the U. S. At the rate of one billion board feet per year, Commissioner Andrews said the state had at least enough saw log timber for the next twenty years (Minnesota cut 2.3 billion board feet in 1900).

At the beginning of 1910, Minnesota had almost 400 lumber camps employing over 16,000 workers and 8,000 horses. Within her borders were two national forests (of 295,000 and 910,000 acres) and the State Forestry Board administered three forest reserves totaling 43,000 acres and almost 3,000 acres from the Fond du Lac Reservation. Furthermore, by 1910 the state university's forestry school was recognized as one of the best in the country.

Rhodes and the other Association officers were elected to continue in office through 1911. The Minnesota Horticulture Society had serious financial problems in 1911 and was forced to end their subsidy to the MSFA. Volume IV, Number 1 of *The Minnesota Forester*, the first issue of the year, did not appear until March. In order to boost the Association's income, the editor encouraged each MSFA member to find three new members.

In November the name of the MSFA's publication was changed to *The North Woods*; It served as the official bulletin for both the Forestry Association and the newly created Minnesota State Forest Service.

\* \* \* \* \*

Other significant events occurring around this time include: The first showing of the Fresnel lens at Split Rock lighthouse in 1910 and the creation of the Northern Forest Protective Association for fire control. The following year Minnesota abolished the death penalty and Hubert H. Humphrey was born.

\* \* \* \* \*

### *Administrative Changes in Minnesota Forestry*

By 1910 the State Forestry Board was dissatisfied with General Andrews, who had been Minnesota's Chief Fire Warden since his appointment in 1895 at age 65. Meanwhile, the Forestry Association, among others, argued that Minnesota's fire laws were inadequate. And then came the devastating Baudette-Spooner fire in October of 1910. It burned one million acres, three times as many as any previously recorded fire in Minnesota. It also killed 42 people. The 1911 Forestry Quarterly paraphrased Andrews as saying after the fire:

*If the legislature of 1909 had appropriated the \$39,000 he asked, instead of only \$21,000, he could have continued ranger service after September first and that probably the calamity would not have occurred.*

Finally, in 1911, the Legislature acted on the recommendations of the Forestry Board. They designed a new system with a state forester who answered to the State Forestry Board. This position had responsibility for all forestry activities, including fire fighting, except for management of state timber which, curiously, remained the responsibility of the state auditor.

The Board chose 1906 Minnesota Forestry School graduate William Cox as the first State Forester. Andrews had recommended Cox for a position with the U. S. Forest Service where he

became Assistant Chief for National Forests under Pinchot with responsibility for forestry in all the National Forests. Apparently Cox was in Sacramento in April of 1906 and worked round the clock for several days, helping refugees from the San Francisco earthquake and fire. President Roosevelt and Pinchot chose Cox to participate in the first Conservation Congress in Washington, D C.

Addressing Cox's appointment and the end of the Andrews' era, the Forestry Commission of Minnesota said in their Sixteenth Annual Report:

*it is to be hoped that the statesman-like, cheese-paring attitude of the legislature which hampered the chief fire warden's work may have also come to an end.*

In appreciation of General Andrews' years of service, the State Forestry Board appointed him its secretary, a position he retained until his death at age 92. Cox chose University of Minnesota forestry classmate Dillon Tierney as his assistant. Tierney had an M. F. from the Yale Forestry School, had worked for Weyerhaeuser in Cloquet, the U. S. Forest Service in Montana and had been an instructor in the Minnesota College of Forestry.

Another important bill for forestry, the Weeks Act, was passed by Congress in 1911. The bill was controversial because it provided, for the first time in history, authorization for the federal government to purchase land. Its main purpose was to protect forested land at the headwaters of navigable streams. It also provided up to \$10,000 matching funds for states to protect such land.



White Pine

At about this time the United States Forest Service set out to solve a problem which undoubtedly was of great concern to the Executive Committee of the MSFA. Understanding the history of that problem requires a brief return to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the Forest Service decided to replant white pine in the cut-over lands of the Northeast United States. American nurseries were unable to meet the demand for white pine seedlings for this huge replanting. In a recent paper, Sam Cook, a USDA Biological Science Technician, says that to solve this problem, Pinchot sent White Pine seeds to Germany and a few years later imported the resulting seedlings and planted them.

Within a few years it was obvious that something had gone wrong. White pine seedlings and saplings were dying at an alarming rate. The culprit, White Pine Blister Rust (WPBR) originated in Asia and was well established in Europe at the time Pinchot's seeds were becoming seedlings. Unfortunately, American five-needle pines were highly susceptible to the fungus so the White Pine planting program helped spread WPBR from Maine to Minnesota.

Several years later the Forest Service set out to defeat the disastrous disease by eradicating Ribes, its alternate host. Over \$100 million was



spent on the eradication program, until failure was finally admitted in about 1960. WPBR remains a problem in the woodlands of Minnesota.

Still searching for new members, the *North Woods* editor suggested several reasons for joining the MSFA, ending his sales pitch with:

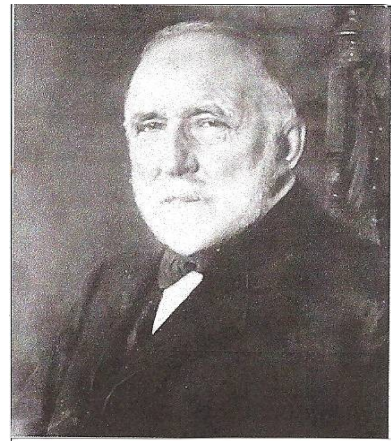
*Join the army of the progressive and send us your dollar.*

Assistant U. S. Forester Graves was the featured speaker at the December, 1912 annual meeting. The meeting was exceptional in that it featured two women, a promising development. Mrs. C. J. Backus of St. Paul discussed *The Need for State Forests* and Mrs. Gilman of Elbow Lake presented *The Forest Home*. She was followed by Mr. Gilman, who listed the advantages of having a home in the forest and added that women should wear:

*the lumberman's regulation flannel shirt and exchange their chorus girl's high-heeled shoes for hob-nailed boots.*

One can only hope that the Gilman home in the forest remained peaceful after that remark. *The Origin of the Hot Winds and How to Prevent Them* was Mr. Maher's title. Finally Professor Cheney, the "Power Point" presenter of his era, gave a stereopticon lecture on *Forests and Forest Industries*. Cheney joined the forestry faculty at the University in 1909. We will meet him several more times before his retirement in 1947.

Prominent lumberman Fred A. Weyerhaeuser wrote an article for the 1913 *North Woods* in which he decried the earlier practice of harvesting only the best of the white pine and leaving all the rest. Except for some cull-stock and Norway pine, the only wood used had been the clear white pine. Weyerhaeuser was pleased that current practice: was *to clear the land of all timber of commercial value*.



*Frederick A. Weyerhaeuser*

When George E. Marshall was elected president in March of 1913, the Association had 170 members. Marshall, who was supervisor of the Chippewa National Forest at Cass Lake, announced his ambitious goal of having the *greatest campaign ever* and thereby increase membership to 1,000 within a short time. Indeed, by the end of the year, the Association could claim 440 members, an impressive 259% increase, although its still a bit short of 1,000.

Rangers from the Forest Service held a five-day meeting at the College of Forestry. This, the first such meeting of Rangers, attracted twelve men, each of whom had to pay all of his own expenses. They heard lectures on mapping, tree growth, silvics, and the U. S. land survey. Cox spoke on Minnesota Forestry *Policy* and Cheney on the *History of Forestry*.

The 1913 Legislature proposed a constitutional amendment to put to the voters in 1914. It would permit state-owned land unsuited for agriculture to be set aside for state or school forests. The Forestry Association launched a vigorous campaign to help pass the amendment; it became their primary focus for the next 18 months. The 1913 Legislature also appropriated \$250,000 for the purchase of private land and timber within Itasca State Park.

Minnesota State Forester William Cox, a long-time MSFA member, presented a model state forestry law at the fifth Conservation Congress in Washington, D. C. One feature of his model was that the administrative structure should not be directly responsible to political parties and that civil service regulations should apply to almost all forest service employees.

In spite of opposition by some lumbermen, the voters of Minnesota accepted the forestry amendment. In fact, of eleven proposed amendments in 1914, it was the only one to pass. The MSFA, along with Cox, deserve much of the credit for the successful adoption of the amendment. In addition to the many hours of work MSFA members contributed to get the amendment passed, their aggressive campaign put them over \$1,800 in debt. In 2008 (the latest year for which data is available) that \$1,800 had the purchasing power of \$40,000. The amendment permits any state-trust land not suitable for agriculture to be converted to state forest. Minnesota originally owned 8.5 million acres of land of which only 2.5 million remained, and that was generally of poorer quality.

## *Chapter VII*

### *Forestry at the University of Minnesota*

At the turn of the century, the Association commended the Board of Regents for asking the Legislature to fund a new building to house the Horticulture, Forestry, Botany and Physics programs at the University of Minnesota. The MSFA also addressed the Legislature directly, encouraging them to treat the request favorably.

We can sense a symbiotic relationship evolving between the Forestry Association and University faculty with an interest in forestry. Highly trained professors could provide their expertise to help develop and implement MSFA policy while the political and business leaders in the Association could lend their support to the forestry program at the University. Eventually, the Minnesota Forestry Association played a key role in establishing the Department of Forestry at the University of Minnesota and, in 1910, the University's Cloquet Forest Experiment Station. In 1914, Minnesota granted the first Forestry PhD in this country!

The editor of *The North Woods*, presumably Edward Cheney, expressed his appreciation for the conservation work of the Federation of Women's Clubs. He said the Minnesota Federation was the first in the country to: *actively interest itself in this noble work* and was frequently called on for guidance by women's clubs throughout the nation. The Minnesota Forestry Association made arrangements with the Federation for group membership rates.

In 1915 the executive committee of the MSFA announced plans for an August *Frontier Day* celebration. It was to be a competition in woodland and water skills, log rolling, target shooting, and fishing and would feature speakers of national reputation. Available documents do not indicate when, or even if the celebration actually took place.

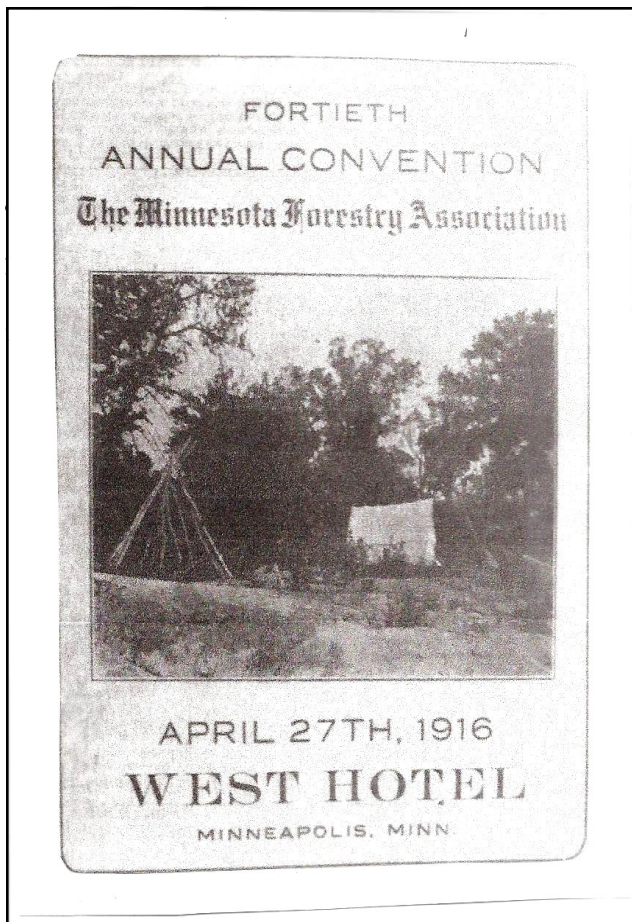
In July Cox reported to the executive committee that the Legislature reduced the appropriation for the Forest Service from \$75,000 to \$40,000; this followed an earlier appropriation which was half of the requested \$150,000. Such a drastic reduction would surely have a dramatic effect on forest fire protection. Indeed, the Forest Service had to cut 34 rangers and patrolmen from its fire patrols. Consequently, their men were :

*so widely scattered as to make it necessary for localities to handle fires at their own discretion and expense.*

In addition, the Legislature refused to fund a soil survey of state-owned lands. Since the recently adopted forestry amendment required a soil survey before setting aside land for a state forest, the Legislature effectively blocked implementation of the amendment.

Cox was an early proponent of *flying machines* for fire patrol. In the summer of 1915 he wrote in MSFA's *North Woods* that the idea came to him in 1907 while watching the Wright brother's flights which won them a U. S. Army contract. Cox calculated a net savings of approximately 43% would accrue if flying boats were used for fire patrol of the five million acres in:

*the lake dotted area of Northeast Minnesota, which is peculiarly adapted to patrol by the use of hydro-aeroplanes.*



Unfortunately, nothing came of his suggestion; the first organized aerial fire patrol in the U. S. was in California in 1919.

President Dietrich Lange presided over the notable fortieth annual MSFA convention. Lange served as teacher, principal, superintendent and then director of nature studies for the St Paul school system. The meeting was at the Minneapolis West Hotel which formerly had been considered the most luxurious hotel west of Chicago. Unfortunately 11 people were killed in a fire at the West in 1906 and by 1909 the Radisson on Seventh had replaced it as the social center of Minneapolis.

Returning to the fortieth anniversary meeting: After remarks by the Governor's Secretary, Lange introduced Mrs. Phelps Wyman who discussed *Women's Interest in Forestry*. Mrs. Wyman was active in several organizations; her husband was a well-known landscape architect.

The next speaker was Wisconsin State Forester F. B. Moody, another early advocate for the use of aeroplanes in fire patrol. In fact,

Moody and Cox were to make a joint presentation on the topic at the upcoming Cooperative Forest Fire Conference. After his degree from the University of Michigan School of Forestry, Moody worked for his lumberman father as a sawyer, scaler and river driver in Maine.

At this meeting Torger Hoverstad, Agricultural Commissioner for the Soo Line Railroad, gave a talk entitled *Railroad Forestry*. As the first superintendent of the Northwest Experiment Station, he realized the importance of trees for farms on the prairie and in 1896 planted the trees which matured to shelter the campus of the Experiment Station. Minnesota's State Forester, MSFA member William T. Cox, spoke on the work of the Minnesota Forest Service.

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In addition to the fortieth anniversary of the MSFA, 1916 saw the reelection of Woodrow Wilson as President of the U.S. and the first Rose Bowl game. Einstein published his General Theory of Relativity and Frank Lloyd Wright designed the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo. Carl Sandburg published his Chicago Poems and the iron miners in Minnesota went on strike.

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The Cloquet /Moose Lake fire of 1918 was a massive firestorm created when several smaller fires united to wipe out 250,000 acres of forest. The fire took 450 lives and did an estimated \$75 million damage.

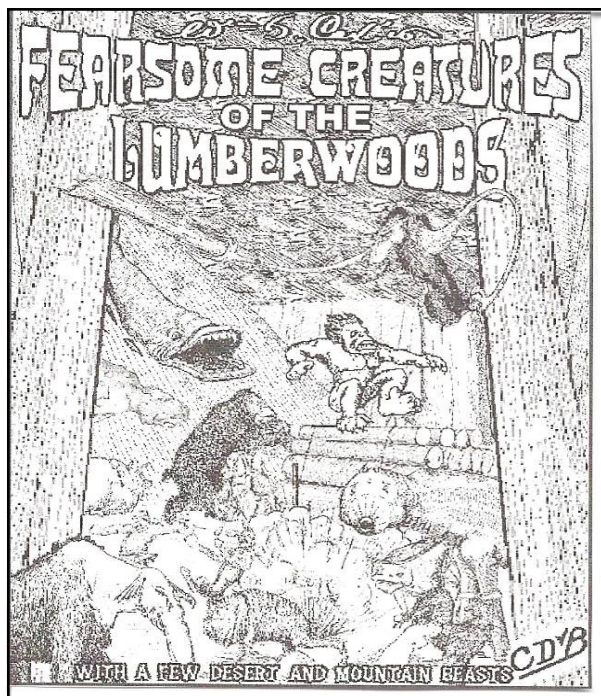
Fire protection was one of the responsibilities of state forester Cox. A few weeks after the fire, he laid the blame for the fire on slow-burning bog fires, the railroads, extreme drought, carelessness and too few forestry employees to detect and fight the fires. Cox, obviously a courageous fellow, said the disaster might have been prevented if the Legislature had provided adequate funding for fire protection, as had been requested. The MSFA followed up by printing and distributing Cox's comments on the fire.

Minnesota's burning permit law was adopted after the fire. Prior to that, anyone could burn anything at any time. The 1940 manual for Fire Wardens claims the law was the most important reason there were fewer forest fires after 1918.

The Legislature met in special session to ratify the proposed Woman Suffrage amendment in September of 1919. Since the fire threat that fall was again critical, they provided an additional \$44,000 for fire protection. During that special session, the Legislature also allocated \$45,000 to equip an airfield for the 12 planes the federal government agreed to provide. The planes were for mail delivery but would also be available to the forest service for fire protection.

The 1920 fire potential was similar to that of 1918 so an additional \$40,000 was appropriated for fire patrol. The federal Weeks Law allocated additional funds for fire detection and control at that time.

*William T. (Bill) Cox*



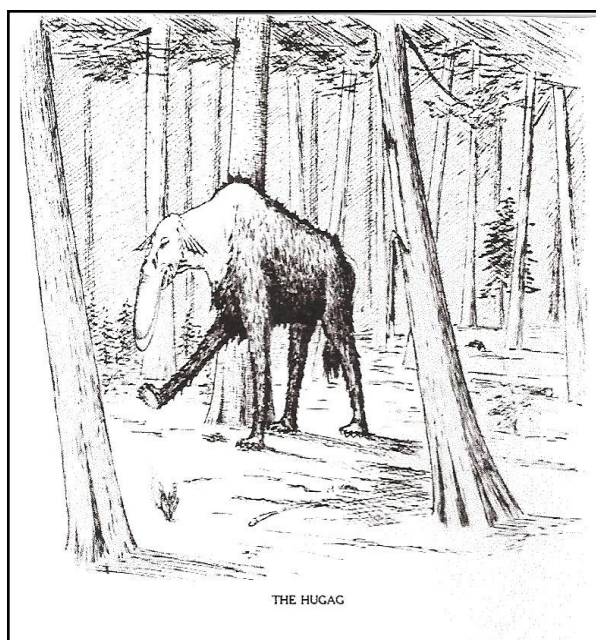
Cox has appeared in this story several times already and will soon show up in another context. We have seen that early in his career Cox was secretary of the MSFA; he remained a member for many, if not all of his years in forestry. We also saw that he, along with the Association, is given much of the credit for the adoption of the forestry amendment in 1914. His reputation was nation wide and he was a senior-grade member of the Society of American Foresters.

In addition to his key role in Minnesota forestry, there is another surprising contribution Cox made. He delved into the fantasy world of woodland creatures invented by the old lumber jacks as they sat around their woodstoves on long winter nights. One example of their inventions is the moose-like beast called the Hugag, which had jointless legs and an upper

lip so long that it prevented the Hugag from grazing. Cox set out to preserve the descriptions of many of those curious animals. The result was his *Fearsome Creatures of the Lumberwoods*, published in 1910.

Artist, and fellow forester Coert Du Bois did the sketches; appropriate Latin names for the creatures were chosen by forester George Sudworth. Both the Hugag and the more common Hodag are said to be easily found in Minnesota.

After a prolonged search, an autographed copy of the 1910 edition of Cox's book was found in 2005. That discovery led to the publication the following year of a 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hypertext Edition. The book is also available in a paperback edition.



By the end of 1923 the MSFA had 416 members and \$70 in the bank. A year later membership had dropped to 320 (a 23% decrease) but the treasury held \$340. Apparently, the association was not very active because the following year the balance in their account was still \$340.

The lack of general meetings and a poorly attended Executive Committee meeting prompted forester Raphael Zon, director of the Lake States Forest Experiment Station, to write MSFA President Dietrich Lange with his concerns about the Forestry Association. He suggested that the group meet soon to draft plans to enliven the organization and attract new members.

Zon's background included several arrests for political activities in his native Russia. He came to the U. S. in 1898 and in 1901 graduated from Cornell as a Forest Engineer. His twenty years of research for the U. S. Forest Service established him as the most influential forest researcher in the country. He published almost 200 papers and articles and was editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Forestry* for five years. He won several awards, including the Pinchot Medal of the SAF.

Ever since his appointment as State Forester, Cox had argued that the timber management duties of the State Auditor should be shifted to the State Forester. Minnesota Law School graduate Jacob Preus served as Auditor from 1915 to 1921, when he was elected Governor of Minnesota. In spite of his boss Preus's beliefs about timber management responsibilities, Cox continued to work for restrictions on the sale and harvesting of timber. In 1924 Cox was fired by Preus and his assistant Grover Conzet appointed in his place.

William Cox ran several research projects and, in addition to *Fearsome Creatures*, published numerous forestry-related books and articles. In 1920 a group of state foresters met in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania as guests of Gifford Pinchot, Pennsylvania Commissioner of Forestry and former Chief U.S. Forester. The group founded the National Association of State Foresters and showed their respect for Cox by electing him President of their new Association. Cox was also the first chairperson of the St. Paul section of the SAF. In his chapter on State Forestry, Clarence Prout says the basic state forest protection system Cox designed for Minnesota was still in use over forty years later and that it had been copied by many other states.

In Cox's last year, the department passed another milestone when it purchased its first motor vehicle, a truck which had started life as a 1919 Model T Ford car.

The first of several reorganizations of Minnesota's state forestry structure occurred in 1925 with the creation of the Department of Conservation. The State Forester became the Commissioner of Forestry, answerable to a three-person Conservation Committee.

Early in the following year, W. W. Dunn, Vice President of the Central Trust Company, asked to be removed from the Executive Committee of the Forestry Association. Later that year, Forest Engineer Dillon Tierney of Castle Rock, MN, enthusiastically accepted his election as Vice President of the Association. Later, Secretary Hanson announced that the Minnesota Division of Forestry was no longer willing to assist the Association with the *North Woods* so it would no longer be published. Instead, the Association would have its own section in each issue of the *Minnesota Horticulturist*.

Even though he was no longer a forester for the state of Minnesota, Bill Cox continued his interest in the state's woodlands. In 1926 he was back on the Executive Committee of the MSFA. It was apparently from 1924 to 1929 that he was employed as the first superintendent of the Upper Mississippi Valley Game and Fish Refuge. The refuge was created by Congress at the urging of the Izaak Walton League to protect the backwaters of the upper Mississippi. It stretched from Wabasha, Minnesota to Rock Island, Illinois, encompassing hundreds of wooded islands.

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Stepping back to look at a few non-forestry events during this era, we note that Herbert Hoover was President in 1930 when Sauk Center's Sinclair Lewis won the Nobel Prize for Literature, and Congress passed the Shipstead-Newton-Nolan act to protect water levels and lake-shore. The following year the Longshoremens went on strike in Duluth and the year after that there was a hunger strike in Minneapolis.

\* \* \* \* \*

The American Forestry Association met in Minnesota again in 1930. While here they proclaimed the lumbering town of Cloquet to be: *the greatest wood conversion city in the world*. Earlier, others claimed that Cloquet's tiny neighbor Barnum, also a lumbering center, was the egg capitol of the United States. That's a lot of fame for two small towns almost hidden in the forests of Northern Minnesota.

The 1931 Legislature redesigned both the Conservation Commission and the Department of Conservation. Now a five-member Commission appointed a Conservation Commissioner who was in charge of four divisions, one of which was forestry. They hired William Cox to be the first Commissioner of Conservation! Yes, the same Cox who earlier was dismissed from his position as State Forester. So now Conzet, who replaced Cox as forester, became the Director of Forestry, serving *under* Cox. The 1931 student publication, the *Gopher Peavey*, was dedicated to Conzet:

*To Grover M Conzet Whose Ability, Loyalty and Integrity in the Face of All Odds  
Force the Admiration of All Who Know Him*

This latest reorganization placed responsibility for the state parks in the forestry division, and timber sales by the Auditor were subject to the approval of the director of forestry.

In a very controversial move, the Forestry Commission dismissed Cox in 1933. The vote to dismiss was 3 to 2 and there were apparently hard feelings among Commission members. There was also tension between the state and federal forestry systems. The SAF investigated his dismissal and sent a representative to testify at Cox's hearing, the first time they ever lent their support to one of their members. Some members felt it was inappropriate to take on such a case. Cox was not rehired; nonetheless, he retained his interest in Minnesota forestry and the MSFA. It's worth noting that his replacement was in office for four years and the next commissioner was gone after only two years.

Association President Parker Anderson, who was a veteran of WWI and who wrote several forestry related articles, suggested the MSFA encourage a tax policy which would: *promote tim-*

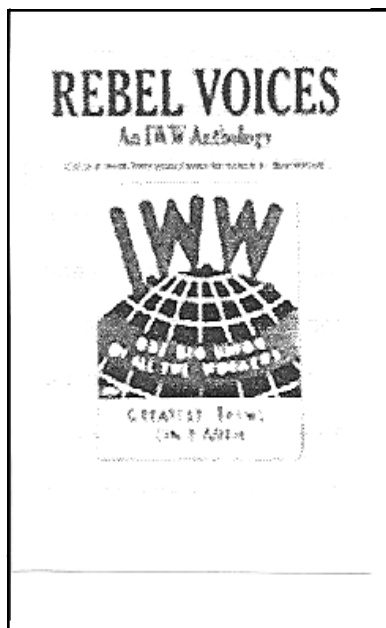
ber conservation and reforestation through private enterprise. Extension forester Anderson also asked the 1934 Executive Committee to consider five goals for the coming year:

- \* Promote tax policies to encourage conservation and reforestation
- \* Persuade the state to supply low-cost nursery stock for reforestation
- \* Encourage Minnesota to survey the soils in the 16 northern counties
- \* Develop a land-use policy
- \* Provide educational opportunities about forestry topics.

Note that today the second, third and fourth of the above goals have been accomplished and the fifth is an on-going process carried out by the Minnesota Forestry Association, the Minnesota DNR and the University of Minnesota Extension Division. There have also been improvements in the tax climate for woodland owners, but more needs to be done before that goal is satisfied.

President Anderson presided over a meeting of 22 MSFA members in December of 1936 to formulate a broad forestry policy to urge upon the Legislature. Former President Lange emphasized that any such policy must address taxes because: *private forestry was being taxed out of existence*. Cheney, Cunningham and Conzet were asked to prepare a draft copy of a policy to present to the membership. Phil Hanson, Secretary-Treasurer, and four others formed a membership committee to attract new members. Incidentally teacher, nature writer and past MFA chief Lange joined former conservation commissioner Cox to publish their *Bird Stories* in 1932.

One month later Cunningham presented a draft statement of MSFA goals for the use of the membership committee. In addition to the usual policy suggestions, the following goals reflect the evolving needs of forestry in Minnesota :



1. Establish a Civil Service system in the Conservation Department .
2. Increase salaries in the Forestry Division .
3. Make it easier to hire the most qualified personnel .
4. Construct a new forestry building at the University of Minnesota Farm on the St.Paul campus

### ***Revolt of the Timber Beasts***

At about this time a new organization with very different goals appeared on the scene. In January of 1937 the lumberjacks of Minnesota, under the auspices of the newly created Minnesota Timber Workers' Union, shut down logging throughout the northern part of the state.

There had been an earlier strike, in 1917, led by the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). That national socialist organization



had also done some organizing for the largely failed 1916 iron miner's strike on the Mesabi Range.

The lumberjacks, sometimes referred to as Timber Beasts, had a long list of grievances against the lumber companies. In 1917 about a thousand men walked off the job at six mills of the Virginia and Rainy Lake Company and another thousand struck nine camps of the International Lumber Company. In addition to the owners, the 1917 strikers had to deal with the local police, who tended to favor management, and the press, which was strongly opposed to the strike. Many IWW leaders and the more militant miners were jailed or run out of town. The Wobblies, as members of the IWW were called, were considered by some to be foreign agitators and a threat to the American way of life. The strike was called off on the first of February, 1917. The union claimed a partial victory as some working and living conditions were improved as a result of the strike.

The 1937 strikers faced very different circumstances. Governor Elmer A. Benson, an even more radical member of the Farmer-Labor party than his predecessor, Governor Floyd B. Olson, provided invaluable assistance to the strikers. He demanded that they be given state aid for food and shelter, promised to investigate if any strike breakers were hired and ordered the state police to help the strikers. Olson also ordered an investigation of the workers' living conditions in the camps. This gave the loggers a public forum to discuss their grievances, which included everything from lice and poor ventilation in the bunk houses to dirty kitchens and having to buy over-priced supplies from the company store. *The St. Louis County Independent* charged that the companies treated workers:

*as ruthlessly as they exploited one of Minnesota's most important natural resources .*



*Elmer A. Benson*

On January 29<sup>th</sup>, management agreed to pay raises of 10 to 18 percent, offered an eight-hour day, instituted a seniority system and a closed shop. This was a major victory for the union but not a lasting one; the contract was to be renegotiated the following September at the beginning of the next logging season. When September arrived, management was well prepared to combat both the union and Governor Benson. It was a hard-fought strike, but eventually the union accepted a settlement which gave them much of what they wanted, although they had to concede on several important issues.

Unfortunately, production in the lumber industry had reached its peak in the first decade of the twentieth century and after 1937 jobs in the industry became increasingly difficult to find, making the hard-won victory of the union less valuable than it might have been.

## *Chapter VIII*

### *The End Approaches*

There is no known evidence of any Minnesota Forestry Association activity in the years immediately following the formation of Cunningham's 1937 draft. Of course, the forest industry continued to function in Minnesota, even though the Association was relatively inactive. One reason the MSFA was so inactive was arguably that other organizations had emerged to promote the principles for which the Association stood. In fact, many of those organizations owed their existence, at least in part, to the efforts of the MSFA.

In mid-1940, Division of Forestry Director H. G. Weber told Conservation Commissioner William L. Strunk that although the Minnesota State Forestry Association was dormant a *founding member* told him it could be revived. Since the MSFA was about 70 years old at that time, the *founding member* must have been close to 100. Weber offered Dietrich Lange his help and that of the Division of Forestry in reviving the Association. Unfortunately, that revival failed. In 1945 Weber wrote that the Association had been inactive for several years.

Three years after Weber's offer to help, MSFA President Parker Anderson conferred with several Association members and then issued a press release stating that the oldest forestry and conservation organization in Minnesota would be disbanded at a meeting on Saturday, October 16, 1948. However, on the 16<sup>th</sup> they decided that before shutting down the 72-year-old organization, they would dispose of the \$640 remaining in the treasury. Unfortunately, at least one newspaper ran an article on October 15<sup>th</sup> which was almost identical to Anderson's press release.

In addition to Anderson, Vice President Stafford King (who was Minnesota State Auditor from 1930 to 1969) was at the meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> as was Chester Wilson, Commissioner of Conservation, who suggested the remaining money be used for a manual on tree planting (an appropriate choice for the Association's last project, since one of their first projects had been the publication of such a manual). His suggestion was well received so they moved to the task of disbanding. That's when Bill Cox, almost 70 years old, in a move contrary to the published agenda, proposed that the Association still had an important role to play in Minnesota forestry. Surprisingly, several others agreed with Cox. One can imagine Extension Forester Anderson was rather shocked at this turn of events. Thus, in spite of the already published newspaper announcement, the Association did not disband. However, to date there is no evidence that they took the opportunity provided by Cox's comments to return to active involvement in forestry issues.

\* \* \* \* \*

In 1948 Hubert Humphrey gave an impassioned Civil Rights speech at the Democratic presidential convention and *Give 'em hell Harry* was returned to the White House. That was also the year KSTP, Minnesota's first TV station, went on the air.

\* \* \* \* \*

In 1953 Frank Kaufert, director of the University's Institute of Agriculture, wrote to Anderson, Cox and J. H. Allison, asking to use money from the MSFA account to help finance a publication in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the School of Forestry. Allison was retired from both the Yale and the Minnesota Schools of Forestry. All four of these men had been at the above 1948 MSFA meeting. Later correspondence shows the Association did contribute to the memorial publication but had still not decided whether or not to disband.

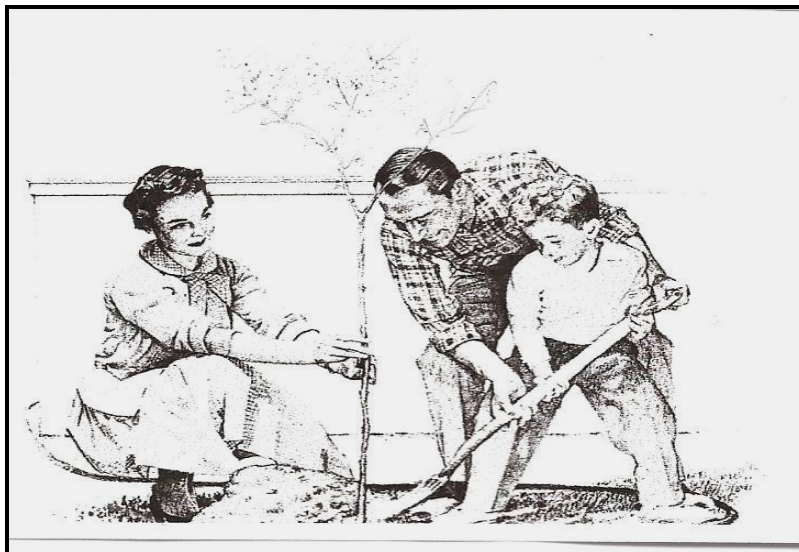
In November of 1953, Cox chaired another meeting to discuss the future of the Association. That meeting, in Castle Rock, a small community of around 1500 in Dakota County, attracted about 20 people interested in the fate of the 72-year-old Forestry Association. After Cox sketched the history of the Association, Parker Anderson admitted the organization had done almost nothing in the last 10 years. The group considered various roles for the Association and unanimously decided Cox should call another meeting to elect officers and approve a schedule of events suitable for a scaled down Minnesota Forestry Association.

A letter bearing good news for the MSFA arrived on Cox's desk in November of 1953. Irving Frisch, Minnesota's Assistant Attorney General said it was their opinion that: *The period of duration of the corporate existence of the Minnesota State Forestry Association is perpetual.* Thus, in spite of almost no activity for the past several years, the Association was alive and well as far as the state was concerned.

\* \* \* \* \*

Also of interest to Minnesotans in 1953: Ojibwa Charles Bender of the White Earth Indian Reservation became the first **Minnesotan** elected to baseball's Hall of Fame. For three years he had the best winning percentage of all the pitchers in the American League. Also, in 1953, the Legislature chose the Red Pine as the state tree. That same year, after taking the lives of 688 Minnesotans, the Korean War finally ended

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Norman Rockwell's "Family Planting Trees", was an advertisement for Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company. This reproduction appeared in the winter 1988 issue of *Minnesota Forest*.

He may not have made it into the Hall of Fame, but Cox did receive several significant honors. At the age of 74, Minnesota's first state forester was honored by the National Association of Conservation Education and Publicity for *meritorious service to state, national and international conservation progress*. In October, of 1953, the University of Minnesota gave our Cox the Outstanding Alumnus Achievement Award for his work in forestry.

In June of 1954, R. P. Provost, Director of the Greater University Fund, thanked the MSFA for the \$400 grant to publish *Forestry in Minnesota – Past, Present and Future*. He assured Cox that recognition for the Association's help would appear in the publication, as indeed it did, on the last page.

Extension Forester Parker Anderson invited Cox, Allison, Tierney and forest ranger P.C. Records (author of "Tree Planting for Shelter in Minnesota" and "The Value of a Woodlot") to Forestry Day, scheduled for January 25, 1958 at the University. He suggested they should also schedule a meeting to discuss MSFA business that day. The first presentation of the Cheney Award was also scheduled for Forestry Day. The award was in honor of highly esteemed teacher and scholar Edward Cheney who retired from the University Forestry Department in 1947. The scholarship continued to be awarded, sometimes to several students in a year, until about 1985.

In 1909 Cheney had studied forestry at Yale for one year when Sam Green convinced him to join the Forestry Faculty at the University of Minnesota. One year later, after Green's untimely death at 51, Cheney became head of the College of Forestry. He was an active member of the MSFA and a promoter of Arbor Day activities in the schools, about which he once said:

*These trees are just as much a part of the schools' equipment as the ink or the stove wood and should be as readily provided.*

### *The Mysterious Medal*

In about 1958 Richard Myrick sent a curious letter involving the MSFA to the Minnesota Secretary of State. Myrick and a friend had found a silver dollar-size medal in the friend's garden in Snohomish, Washington with *Minnesota State Forestry Association, 1876* inscribed on one side and *Awarded to Charles King* on the other. Although Charles King had been Myrick's friend's father-in-law, s/he knew nothing about the medal.

In his reply to Myrick, Edward L. Lawson, director of the Division of Forestry, said there was no record of any medals having been awarded or of an MSFA member by the name of Charles King. State Auditor Stafford King, a member of the Association, was not aware of any relatives named "Charles", but curiously did have relatives in Snohomish. King offered to purchase the medal and donate it to the Forestry Association. Since some MSFA materials are at the Minnesota Historical Society, Curator Matthew Anderson searched, but found no record of such a medal in their collection. Likewise, Erin George searched in vain at the University of Minnesota Archives.

Thus, the mystery of the medal remained unsolved. Later, the following was found in an 1878 publication on forestry: about the incentives used in 1876 by the MSFA to encourage tree planting :

*For medals, the association decided upon a piece in silver, of coin standard, and of the size of a silver dollar, pierced for a ribbon and furnished with a case. Each medal was to have stamped on one side a wreath of forest leaves to encircle the same; and on the reverse, the words "Minnesota State Forestry Association, 1876. "*

Cheney wrote several books on forestry, including his 1942 *American Silvics and Silviculture*. He also wrote *Scott Burton, Logger* and other fiction for boys.

In 1959, Forestry Division Director Ed Lawson was asked to investigate whether the MSFA should be reactivated:

*with the aid of the Society of American Foresters to present and stimulate principles and objectives that will serve as guides for future development.*

His cautious response in the fall of 1959 pointed out there were more than 100 organizations in Minnesota whose goals required healthy forests, but that acting alone, none of them have much influence. However:

*Through a central organization such as the Minnesota Forestry Association, many groups in the state interested in various conservation problems will find a vehicle through which unified action can be correlated.*

He added that to be successful the Forestry Association must have sufficient funds to employ a full-time executive secretary. Having laid out the facts, Lawson then said the decision to assist in the reactivation or not was for the SAF to make.

Unfortunately, at this time it is not known what action, if any, resulted from Lawson's report, although it is probably safe to assume the organization remained inactive from 1959 until 1978. In Part II, we will observe the Association as it resurfaces in 1978 to once again become a dynamic force in Minnesota Forestry .

## **Part II**

### ***The 1978 Resprouting of the Minnesota State Forestry Association***

#### ***Chapter IX***

#### ***Emerging from Hibernation***



**American Black Bear**

In Minnesota, a pregnant black bear normally crawls into her crude den and goes dormant in the fall of each year. Her cubs are born in January or February and once the weather is favorable, she and her cubs emerge from the den together. The weather must have been favorable for the Minnesota Forestry Association in January of 1978 because it emerged from dormancy, nursed along by DNR forester Wayne Hanson, among others. Wayne remained a member of the MFA up to the time of his death in August of 2011.

The first organizational meeting for which minutes are available was in Brainerd in January, 1978. However, Mike Latimer hosted an earlier exploratory meeting, probably in the fall of

1977, at his home in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Bruce Humrickhouse and Clarence Buckman were among the foresters at that meeting. Bruce had been a DNR forester since 1959. In his career with the DNR, he made good use of the knowledge of aviation he gained as an ASW instructor during the Korean War. Bruce was Supervisor of the Division Aviation Program in Grand Rapids when he retired from the DNR in 1991. (By 1986, Minnesota had six fire fighting choppers and crews spread strategically across the State).

When asked why the Forestry Association was revived in 1978, Humrickhouse said, in a 2008 phone interview, that there was concern that interest in forestry was waning, particularly in the non-governmental sector. One example cited was the poor coverage of forestry issues by the media. However, Bruce added, that could have been because of the excessive coverage of the threat of forest fires the previous year. Although there had been only one severe forest fire (32,000 acres on September 7<sup>th</sup> of 1976) , the potential for fires in 1976 was the worst it had been since the 1930s.

Conversations with foresters Al Schacht and Terry Helbig suggest the Minnesota Forestry Association was revived in part because there was Federal encouragement to work with private woodland owners at the state level. However, some agencies in Minnesota either could not or did not wish to take on the job. There was apparently also some competition and jealousy in certain quarters. Thus, it was thought better to bring in a new organization and encouragement was given to resurrect the former Minnesota State Forestry Association. Some sources suggest that Federal grants were available to assist that process. Records available at this time are not helpful on that issue. Terry and Al also pointed out that there was also a feeling at the time that too many individuals and organizations from outside the traditional forestry community were exerting undue influence on forestry policy. Others felt Minnesota needed a neutral voice for forestry. That is, an organization not aligned with industry or loggers or any other special interest group.

Here is another theory which might help explain the rebirth of the association. In May, 1940, the state of Washington formed an organization called *Keep Washington Green*. Oregon launched a similar program in July, 1940, although their full-scale program was not in place until 1942. Both structures were primarily for the prevention of forest fires. Apparently motivated by Washington and Oregon, Minnesota started a state-wide program called Keep Minnesota Green (KMG) in 1944. Governor Edward Thye showed his support for the organization by meeting with the committee designated to run KMG in the spring of 1944. Here is a statement of the goals of the organization:

*The program is aimed first at control and eventual elimination of forest fires; and, later, at restoration and perpetuation of Minnesota's tree resources by scientific practices in cutting and reforestation. It is a long range program, designed to insure that forests shall for all time constitute one of Minnesota's great natural assets.*

Note how many of the above became goals of the Minnesota Forestry Association. KMG went on to have what appears to have been a very successful career, but it was dissolved in 1968.

Apparently one reason for its demise was the feeling of some that more rigid standards were needed for the certification of tree farms. Could it be that the absence of KMG led, in time, to the realization that an organization similar to the old MSFA was needed to take on some of the work of the former KMG? The Washington group is still going strong but Oregon's program ended December 31, 1995.

The following rhyme, from a Burma Shave sign, sounds like an endorsement of KMG and its fire prevention program:

*Ashes to ashes  
Forests to dust  
Keep Minnesota green  
Or we'll  
All go bust  
(Burma Shave, 1949)*

Returning to that January 1978 meeting in Brainerd, it was forester Wayne Hanson who convened that historic meeting of such critical significance for the private woodland owners of Minnesota. The first item of business that winter day was the election of Hanson as acting president and Lawrence Ritter as acting secretary. Ritter had retired in 1962 from his work on White Pine Blister Rust for the U.S. Forest Service. After a wide-ranging discussion, Bruce Humrickhouse stepped forward to make the following motion, which was destined to become so important for forestry in Minnesota: ***to reactivate the old Minnesota Forestry Association.***

Besides making that crucial motion, Bruce agreed to lead a committee on membership. It was his good fortune that Bill Brown, Cliff Carlson and Lansin Hamilton volunteered to serve on the committee with him. Hamilton, a University of Minnesota Forestry graduate, would later serve as Crow Wing County Land Commissioner and as an officer in the Cuyuna Country Heritage Preservation Society. Lance also served on the Crow Wing County Land and Parks Committee early in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Carlson, who was to retire in 1988, served as the DNR Brainerd Area Forest Supervisor.

The committee prepared a letter encouraging prospective MFA members to attend the second meeting, scheduled for April in Brainerd. After commenting on the importance of Minnesota's forests for wildlife, recreation and watershed and soil protection as well as for industrial use, they said: *we are organizing a group of people that can be the voice of our forests.* Adding that:

*It is our hopes (sic) that the re-activated Minnesota Forestry Association will be comprised of a broad cross section of citizens, land owners, educators, sportsmen, farmers, businessmen, and other professionals, concerned citizens, as well as professional land managers.*

Mike Latimer chaired a committee to prepare potential financial policies for the organization. Mike was director of public affairs for Blandin Paper. He was their first forester, having started there in about 1957. In later years, he was on the Wolf Ridge Board of Trustees.

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The return of the MFA wasn't the only notable event in 1978. Moderate republican Al Quie became Governor of Minnesota as a result of the Minnesota Massacre in which voters rejected Governor Rudy Perpich and Senator Wendy Anderson. This is the same Anderson who, as Governor in 1972, appeared on the cover of *Time Magazine* for his role in bringing about the famous Minnesota Miracle. 1978 was the year the Minnesota Supreme Court told Reserve Mining they could no longer dispose of taconite tailings in Lake Superior. It was also the year the Minnesota Vikings put Alan Page on irrevocable waivers, and the year Page graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School. The first defensive player in the NFL to be named Most Valuable Player, Page went on to become the first African American on the Minnesota Supreme Court.

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April Fool's Day of 1978 found the new group meeting in the Brainerd Vocational School, again under the leadership of Wayne Hanson. No doubt some were concerned about doing important business on a day set aside for trickery and deception.

Clarence Buckman led a discussion of the goals suggested by the Committee on Objectives which he chaired. Frank Kaufert, Willard West and Frank Irving also served on the committee. Kaufert was the pioneer in the study of biological deterioration and the preservation of wood for whom the University of Minnesota's Kaufert Laboratory of Forest Products and Wood Science was named. In 1974, Governor Wendy Anderson had proclaimed June 3rd as Dr. Frank Kaufert Day. Irving was also on the forestry faculty at the University, doing research on controlled burns of prairies and oak savannas.

Briefly stated, the committee decided the purpose of the organization should be to educate the public about forestry (and that remains its purpose today). They wanted to form an organization to represent private, non-industrial, woodland owners. One of the major concerns at that time was to manage forests for multiple usage, including:

*beauty, recreation, wildlife, watershed and soil protection as well as the raw material for Minnesota's third largest industry.*



Here is how the first objective appears in Part II of the Articles of Incorporation:

*...to promote the general welfare of all citizens of the State of Minnesota by fostering, promoting and encouraging a more complete understanding by the general public of the State of Minnesota of the high potential and many advantages of intensive scientific management of forests, wood lots and other renewable natural resources to achieve high production of timber products and the associated benefits of (i) increased wildlife habitat, (ii) expanded recreational opportunities and (iii) improved water resources.*

Committee members had the satisfaction of seeing their proposed objectives accepted with only minor changes.

Next on the agenda were the Articles and By-Laws prepared by Carl Peltonieni with the help of Clifford Carlson and charter member Bill Brown of Brainerd. Carlson was the DNR area supervisor for the Brainerd area. Carl Peltonieni was an attorney associated with the First State Bank of Wadena. The Articles were adopted as read, with one amendment by Zig Zasada. The committee then led a lengthy discussion of the By-Laws, which were eventually approved. The Articles of Incorporation of the MFA were signed and recorded on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 1978 by Secretary of State Joan Growe.

Prior to the first annual meeting of the Association, Clarence Buckman, former deputy commissioner of the Minnesota DNR and a director of the MFA said:

*We have reached a crucial point in resource management. Farming needs, commercial development, and the growth of urban society have reached areas of Minnesota forest lands. Furthermore, **demands for single use management of our forests** have resulted in large areas being removed from protective forest management practices, and have made these areas more vulnerable to devastation by fire, insects and disease. Our forest resource base has drastically reduced at a time when the need for game habitat, recreation, and wood fiber are growing more than ever before.*



In August, Peltoniemi was chosen as MFA President at the first annual meeting, held at the Forest History Center in Grand Rapids. The invited speaker William Towell, executive secretary of the American Forestry Association, said the MFA, like the AFA, must: *be the conscience of forestry.*

Recall that the American Forestry Association held its organizational meeting in September of 1875, just a few months before the first meeting of the Minnesota Forestry Association, the first state forestry association in the United States.

In late 1978 the MFA took a major step towards its education goal with the introduction of their four-page newsletter, the *Minnesota Forestry News*. A year later, they introduced

*Minnesota Forests*, an eight-page quarterly publication which was sent to all members and made widely available to non-members as well. Both publications used the tagline “*Better Forests for People, Wildlife and Timber*”.

## ***Chapter X Gaining Momentum***

In December, President Carl Peltoniemi stressed the importance of developing:

*...a comprehensive program of assistance and incentives for the non-industrial private land owner which will build a privately owned forest base on a par with the well managed public and industrial forests of Minnesota.*

Peltoniemi added:

*If we are to receive “Fair play for Forests” it must be in response to the thought product of well informed, imaginative and innovative citizens who are dedicated to a well planned balance in the future land use patterns in Minnesota.*

The IRS acted quickly, granting tax exempt status to the MFA in January of 1979. Senator Robert Dunn, senior Independent-Republican member of the Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee was the featured speaker at the Association’s January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting in St. Paul. The topics discussed included Payment in Lieu of Taxes, the proposed Forest Practice Law, a Minnesota Forest Resources Planning Act to complement the 1974 Federal Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act and the concept of a wood bank, analogous to the soil bank.

U.S. Congressman James Oberstar was in Duluth for an April MFA meeting. Mr. Oberstar expressed his support of funding for reforestation and resource management to offset losses caused by BWCA legislation. He also explained his opposition to the administration’s proposed reorganization of the U. S. Forest Service. Association members expressed their opposition to the concept that our multiple use public forest lands must once again pay the price for park expansion.

At its meeting, the MFA Board pointed out that:

*The 7 million plus acres of commercial forest land owned by the non-industrial private land owners are perhaps the most overlooked resource available to the consumers of Minnesota. For the most part this resource is without any significant management and is of minimal productivity in an era when Minnesota's forest base is shrinking.*

Hence the Board expressed support for: *additional appropriations to fund an increase of technical assistance under the Accelerated Private Forest Management Program.*

In April the Association sponsored a conference in Duluth entitled Forest Resource Management followed in December by a symposium, also in Duluth, on the use of wood for fuel.

That session analyzed the economics of wood burning and discussed sources for fuel wood and wood burning equipment. In the following January, there was a related symposium on fuel wood production as an aid in forest management.

The Association held its second annual meeting in Cloquet on Saturday, August 11, 1979. The group toured Potlatch's containerized seedling greenhouse as well as several other sites in Cloquet. Peltonieni agreed to serve as President for another year and Larry and Wynifred Ritter also retained their Board positions. It was probably at this meeting that the MFA display constructed by membership chairman Larry Ritter was first used. It measured 36" by 56", contained several photographs, and displayed the Association's logo along with the motto: "Forests for People, for Products, for Wildlife and for the Future". Members were encouraged to use the display at forestry conferences and symposiums which they attend.

Surveys taken in Minnesota in 1936, 1953 and 1962 showed the amount of commercial forest acreage was fairly constant at about 17 million acres. However, a preliminary analysis of data collected in 1977 and 1978 indicates a loss of approximately 3.4 million acres. Most of the lost acreage was due to land set aside for wilderness or recreation. This decline helps explain the Association's concern about the creation of additional park land. It also reinforces the board's support for additional funding for the Private Forest Management Program. One could conjecture that decline in commercial forest acreage was one of the motivating factors for the resurrection of the old Forestry Association.

At their winter meeting the MFA Board of Directors agreed to set aside dues from life memberships in a special account from which only interest could be withdrawn. The Board also approved continuation of the newsletter format introduced in the Winter 1980 issue of *Minnesota Forests* and in keeping with their educational goals, agreed to send the newsletter to several thousand non-members, funds permitting. The Winter 1980 *Minnesota Forests* carried the announcement that seventy-three-year old Bob Obenland of Nevis was Minnesota's 1979 Tree Farmer of the Year.

Bemidji hosted the third annual meeting of the Association in September of 1980. Jerry Bach was introduced as the new MFA President. He in turn introduced Ormond Cooper of the Minnesota Tree Farm Association, who presented the 1980 Tree Farmer of the Year award to Oscar Flyckt, whose tree farm was north of Duluth. President Bach, editor Andy Minkkinen and Past President Carl Peltoniemi attended a two-day Institute sponsored by the Conservation Foundation and the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute. Foresters, conservationists and ecologists from eight states gathered to study the impact of federal planning for the use of our range land and forest resources. Association members also participated in the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources study of Minnesota's forests.

The Bemidji meeting also adopted a position paper on the use of herbicides. They declared, in part, that:

*herbicides used in accordance with label instructions do not harm man or beast, and such safety is assured by the U. S. Environmental*

*Protection Agency,...the Minnesota Forestry Association endorses the use of herbicides in accordance with label instructions and in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Minnesota State Department of Agriculture, and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.*

One of the main concerns was the herbicide 2, 4-D, which was originally developed independently by the US and England for chemical warfare during World War II. Later it was found to boost crop production and it became the first successful and most widely used herbicide in the world. As recently as 2008, it was still the third most widely used in the U.S. and Canada and the most widely used worldwide. However, there is concern about the long-term health and environmental effects of 2, 4-D.

Two years later, MFA President Mike Latimer forwarded the position paper to the Minnesota State Executive Council, expressing his concern that the adoption of a ban on the use of 2, 4-D on state lands might some day be extended to private woodlands. Expressing the MFA's continued concern about private woodlands, Mike told the committee:

*We are particularly concerned with the 5,594,700 acres of small private commercial forest land (40.8% of state total) on which much of our future wood needs will depend and which generally are not receiving the benefit of good forest management.*

To reduce the number of miles traveled by members for meetings, the Board decided early in 1981 to split the state into six regions. The Chair of each region would also be a Vice President on the Association Board and each would also have a director serving on the Board. For example, Region III, encompassing Central Minnesota, was represented by Vice President Sig Dolgaard of Brainerd and Director Curt Olson of Sartell. The hope was that regional meetings would be held more frequently than would be reasonable for statewide meetings of the Association.

\* \* \* \* \*

What was happening outside of Minnesota in 1981? Sandra Day O'Connor became the first woman on the Supreme Court and Lady Diana Spencer married Prince Charles in St Paul's Cathedral before 3,500 guests (and a TV audience of approximately 750 million). Iran released 52 American hostages minutes after Ronald Reagan's inauguration. Pope Paul II was critically wounded in an assassination attempt in St. Peter's Square and the first AIDS cases were diagnosed among five gay men in Los Angeles. Walter Cronkite, once named the *most trusted man in America*, retired after 19 years doing the CBS evening news.

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In the summer of 1981, the Joint Select Legislative Committee on Forestry, in the midst of preparing policies for the next Legislative session, asked the Minnesota Forestry Association for help with issues involving private forest land. Thus the Association, in existence for less than four years, had already been recognized as a reliable voice for the non-industrial private forest landowners of Minnesota. Isanti County hosted the fourth annual meeting of the Association in August of 1981. Highlights of the meeting were an address by Governor Al Quie and a tour of

several forest management sites. Mike Latimer was chosen as the new President and Curt Olson became Vice President. Wynifred and Lawrence Ritter, who had served as Recording Secretary and Secretary-Treasurer respectively since January of 1978, were retained in those positions.

Over 60 private woodlot owners from Region III of the Association met on August 22<sup>nd</sup> in Brainerd for a presentation on grants and other programs available for members. There was also a summary of various real estate and income tax options, followed by a showing of the video *Who Controls the Fate of the Forest*, prepared by the Crow Wing Environmental Education Council. Alexandria Industrial Arts teacher Clayton Amundson was named Minnesota's Outstanding Tree Farmer for 1981. Amundson's 400- acre tree farm was in southern Hubbard County.

Regions 1 and II of the Forestry Association met jointly on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 1982 in St. Paul to hear a panel discuss the recommendations of the Joint Select Legislative Committee on Forestry as they pertain to family woodlot owners. Mike Latimer represented MFA when Governor Quie signed the Forest Management Act on March 22. Twelve thousand copies of the Association's

*Minnesota Forests* were being printed quarterly. Mike pointed out that Potlatch Corporation, Northwest Paper and Forest Products, and Boise Cascade had joined the list of corporate supporters of the newsletter. Outgoing President Latimer said the Association continues to make requested appearances at Legislative committee meetings and state agencies on forestry issues. He said that indicates the MFA is recognized as a valuable voice for private woodland owners. Mike also mentioned that the Association was about to initiate discussions on the advisability of having local chapters of the MFA.



**Officers and directors** of MFA. at the annual meeting were, from left to right, past president Curtis Olson, vice president Lansin Hamilton, executive director Mike Latimer, director Bill Burnson, director Carol Buckman, director Joe Deden, secretary-treasurer Larry Ritter, and president Maurice Schwen.

Membership in the revitalized Forestry Association increased steadily. There were only 27 charter members but by 1981-1982, membership had risen to approximately 350. In keeping with the goal of educating a broad spectrum of Minnesotans, 10,000 copies of the Spring 1981 issue of *Minnesota Forests* were distributed. By the spring of 1982, membership was up to about 400. Historian Keith Matson gives Mike Latimer credit for most of the growth during this period.

### *Arbor Day Tree Sales*

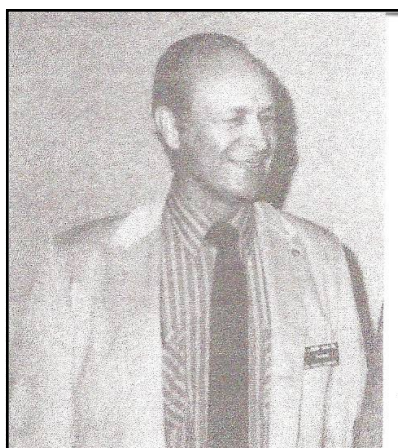
Recall that the first Arbor Day in the country was in Nebraska in 1872 and that at the second meeting of the MFA, they chose May 6<sup>th</sup> of 1876 as the first Arbor Day in Minnesota. Moving ahead to Arbor Day in the spring of 1982, we find the Association sponsoring its first Arbor Day Tree Sale with 800 seedlings donated by Blandin Paper. The Board theorized the tree program would gain recognition for the MFA, help the public appreciate Minnesota's woodland heritage and raise money for the MFA and the cooperating non-profit organizations which helped with seedling sales.

In July of 1982, the Association sponsored a tour of three representative woodlands in the Grand Rapids area. The first stop on the two-hour tour was chosen to illustrate appropriate site preparation; the second exemplified a well-planned thinning of a pine plantation and the third site showed the results of a well-executed aspen harvest. A month later 75 Association members gathered at Cragun's Resort on Gull Lake for the fifth annual meeting. Dan Schmoker from the American Forest Institute spoke about the programs of other state forestry associations. Sartell's Curt Olson replaced Latimer as President, although Mike agreed to continue as editor of *Minnesota Forests*. Brainerd tree farmer Maurice hull was elected Vice President and the Ritters were returned to their positions. Scott Reed, chairman of the Minnesota State Tree Farm Committee, announced that Dick Hufnagle was the State Tree Farmer of the Year. Hufnagle and his wife owned a 780- acre tree farm along the Big Fork River. Chuck Spoden, DNR area forestry supervisor at Littlefork said the Hufnagle farm is: *a showcase of small landowner management*. Dick went on to be named Tree Farmer of the Year again in 1990 and 1999. Lansin Hamilton and Tom Baumann received Silver Hard Hat awards for their outstanding contributions to the State

Tree Farm System. The meeting also featured the premiere of the film *The Aspen Forest: Minnesota Gold*, the second film produced by the Crow Wing Environmental Education Council.

In November of 1982, *Minnesota Forests*, Editor Mike Latimer sent a letter to all members telling them that no fall issue had been published because of funding problems, but he assured them that the winter issue would be published in January, as indeed it was.

Regional meetings had not been as successful as hoped because the area covered by each region was still too large. Therefore, members from the Grand Rapids area formed an ad hoc chapter in January of 1983. They were convinced that a local chapter could meet more frequently and the shorter distances members would have to travel would allow them to attract larger audiences. Forester and historian Keith Matson was the first Secretary-Treasurer of the chapter.



Lansin Hamilton

In May, President Jamrock of the Grand Rapids Chapter presented plaques to recognize the contributions of several sustaining members of the MFA. Chairman of the Board Harold Zigmund accepted the award for Blandin Paper Company. Other honorees were tree farmer Wayne Jacobson and Jack Rajala, President of the Rajala Timber Company.

Over 40 organizations cooperated with the Association in selling over 22,000 seedlings in the spring of 1983. The Grand Rapids sheltered workshop, Brainerd senior citizens and Brainerd Vo-Tech students packed and shipped the majority of those trees. They were sold by scout groups, sportsmen's clubs, garden clubs, 4-H clubs and many other organizations. Governor Perpich held a tree planting ceremony on the Capitol grounds at which MFA members distributed free seedlings to each of the several hundred people in attendance. Later they gave each Legislator a bagged Norway Pine and a copy of *Minnesota Forests*.

Vice President Maurice Schwen became MFA President at the 1983 annual meeting on August 6<sup>th</sup> at St. John's University in Collegeville. Maurice had planted trees every year since 1950 and would become Minnesota's Tree Farmer of the Year in 1989. Lansin Hamilton was elected Vice President and the Ritters of St. Paul continued in their respective offices. Past President Olson awarded Wynifred and Larry Ritter a special plaque in appreciation of their many years of service on the board. Scott Reed declared that Mary and John Richards were the recipients of the State Tree Farm Award for 1983. Governor Perpich's representative Allan Jaisle told the group of the governor's desire for job growth in Minnesota's forest industries.

A bold step forward was taken by the Board at their September meeting. They agreed to hire Past President and *Minnesota Forests* editor Mike Latimer as part-time executive director. This move put a serious strain on the Association's budget, but the board decided it was necessary if the organization was to continue to grow. They also authorized the creation of four additional chapters, to be based in Bemidji, Brainerd, Duluth and the Twin Cities. The board also agreed

to continue publishing three or four issues of *Minnesota Forests* each year and to publish a member only newsletter as needed. They also discussed the possibility of encouraging other groups of forest landowners to affiliate with the Minnesota Forestry Association.

Several months after that September Board meeting President Schwen announced that Chapters were already active in each of Grand Rapids, Brainerd, Duluth, Bemidji and the metro area. He also said that 6,000 copies of *Minnesota Forests* were sent free to people with a special interest in forestry and another 5,000 distributed through public and private forestry offices throughout the state.

### *Twigs*

One of executive director Latimer's responsibilities was coordination of the testing of TWIGS, a computer program developed by the North Central Forest Experiment Station of the U. S. Forest Service. The acronym stands for *The Woodsman's Ideal Growth-projection System*. The program uses a mathematical model to estimate the results of applying different forest management techniques to woodland. It allows the owner of a forest to study the consequences of various strategies without having to wait 25 years for the results to be visible in the woods. An owner can assess the condition of his or her stand, consider potential treatments and evaluate the effects of each treatment. TWIGS will then project the costs and income of each option, thus helping the owner evaluate the potential profitability of each treatment. The MFA agreed

to cooperate with the Forest Service in testing the usefulness of TWIGS to small landowners and disseminating the test results through *Minnesota Forests*.

At its January, 1984 meeting, the Board accepted with regret the resignations of Wynifred and Larry Ritter and expressed appreciation for their work as Recording Secretary and Secretary-Treasurer respectively. The board also expressed their gratitude to the Ritters for their financial contributions to the MFA. Stanley Ringold was elected Secretary-Treasurer. Ringold had been a forester with the Rajala Timber Company since 1969.

\* \* \* \* \*

What can we possibly say about important non-forestry events occurring in **1984** that would add to what *George Orwell* has already written? Orwell even tells us the role of history when he says in **1984** that: *Who controls the past, controls the future*. However, Orwell did omit a few events of interest which took place in 1984, such as Geraldine Ferraro becoming the first female Vice Presidential candidate for a major party and President Ronald Reagan awarding the Presidential Medal of Honor to Jackie Robinson. It was also the year jazz pianist and big band leader Count Basie died. Supposedly, an announcer named him *Count* because jazz already had a *King*, a *Duke* and an *Earl*. Conservationist and nature photographer Ansel Adams also died in 1984.

\* \* \* \* \*

After many years of effort by the MFA and several other organizations, the Legislature finally agreed to the remodeling and enlarging of Green Hall on the University campus. The hall, which opened in 1937, was named in honor of Professor Samuel B. Green, who is considered the founder of the Forestry School at the University of Minnesota. Green came to the University in 1888



as Experiment Station Horticulturist. About ten years later, he published his *Forestry in Minnesota* and served on the Executive Board of the Minnesota Forestry Association.

In the summer of 1984, over 200 attended the Association's annual meeting in Grand Rapids. They passed several resolutions, including one to work with other organizations to encourage the adoption of a Minnesota Forestry Week. There were many demonstrations, including one of the TWIGS software, during which samples of cooked Shiitake mushrooms were available. Bennie Myers presented the Minnesota Tree Farmer of the Year award to Tom Witkowski of Pequot Lakes. Schwen was retained as MFA President and Hamilton as Vice President. The first annual Larry Ritter Award was given to the Minnesota Community Education Director's Association for their promotion of MFA's Arbor Day tree program in 1983 and 1984. In 1983 the Association had sold over 22,000 trees and in 1984, with the help of more than 90 community groups, they sold approximately 27,000 trees.

What was apparently a new Association goal was put forward in 1984. They felt the need to encourage land exchanges in an attempt to consolidate both county and state forests. In addition to its effect on wildlife, consolidation would permit more efficient management of forestland. Today both DNR and Extension foresters fear that the parcelization of land, if not curtailed:

*will eventually convert forested landscapes into a facade;  
a caricature of what they once were.*

Professional foresters and private woodland managers who sampled TWIGS were generally pleased with the results. The average score a sample of ten participants gave the program was 4.3, with 5 being the best score possible. Most felt the program helped them "see" what their future forest would look like.

Financially, the Association enjoyed a robust resurrection. In each of its first two years, the MFA took in approximately \$3,000. Income increased significantly each subsequent year, reaching nearly \$11,000 by 1983. Executive Director Mike Latimer appears to have been an effective fundraiser; MFA's income in 1984 was over \$37,000.

## ***Chapter XI*** ***The Crucial Role of the Blandin Foundation***

In September of 1984, executive director Mike Latimer submitted a grant proposal for approximately a half-million dollars to the Blandin Foundation in Grand Rapids.



In his cover letter, Mike said:

*..it is clear to those who are close to forestry in Minnesota that much more should be done to encourage the development of forestry in the state. The association can continue slowly based on current sources of revenue. But the need for expanded efforts is critical now, so MFA can help significantly to create needed public interest and understanding of the importance of sound forestry programs to Minnesota.*

Two months later Blandin Foundation's Paul Olson informed the Board that the MFA had been awarded a two-year \$200,000 grant, saying, in part:

*We felt it was extremely important for others to "buy in" not only to finance the organization but to help structure and direct the organization in the coming years. For this reason, a \$200,000 grant was thought to be enough to get some things started, but not so much that other sources of support could be overlooked or neglected.*

The grant was to enable the Association to hire a highly qualified full-time executive director and appropriate support staff to run their programs and to expand *Better Forests* and increase its circulation.

The most important step in carrying out the goals of the Blandin Grant was the hiring of a full-time executive director. The Board appointed a search committee consisting of Lans Hamilton, MFA Vice President and Crow Wing County Land Commissioner; Howard E. Olson, an MFA Board member who was a 1949 Forest Management graduate of the University of Minnesota; Executive Director Mike Latimer; MFA member Paul Ellefson of the College of Forestry at the University of Minnesota; and Paul Olson of the Blandin Foundation. Olson, a Wisconsin native, left the Hill Family Foundation to assume the presidency of the Blandin Foundation. In addition to his leadership of the Blandin Foundation, in about ten years Paul would become known in Rochester as the man who rented a 12x15- foot billboard to thank the Mayo Clinic for what they did to help save his life.

From a field of over 50 applicants, the search committee recommended and the Board approved John Suffron, who started his work for the MFA at the end of April. John came with two degrees in forestry from Michigan State and many years of administrative experience at the Copper Range Company of White Pine in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. His responsibilities at Copper Range included supervision of the company's 180,000 acres of forest land, all aspects of water and air quality, and relations with both the EPA and DNR.

The Association accomplished a great deal during the time of the Blandin grant. Under Suffron's leadership, with significant additional staff support, the organization flourished. *Minnesota Forests* went from eight to sixteen pages and began making attractive use of color. In addition to sending a copy of each issue to every member, approximately 13,000 additional copies were printed for distribution to legislators, forestry professionals, woodland owners, educators

and the general public. Published four times per year, it was also distributed free at various meetings and workshops. Mike Latimer continued as editor but later Suffron served as interim editor until mid-1987.

The MFA attracted more non-profits to work with on the annual Arbor Day tree sale and, with the help of the DNR, significantly increased the number of seedlings sold in 1985 to approximately 40,000. In other action, the Board approved \$500 to reprint *A Teacher's Guide to Arbor Month*, a collection of 15 lesson plans. Originally published by the Minnesota Shade Tree Program, the guides were made available through the Minnesota Department of Education. Today, teachers of grades K—8 may receive a free copy of the excellent 2002 revision of the *Teachers' Guide* by emailing [info.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:info.dnr@state.mn.us). Speaking at the Capitol on May 1<sup>st</sup>, Governor Perpich asked Minnesotans to make Minnesota: *the cleanest, greenest state in the nation*. MFA chose that occasion to distribute 1,000 free spruce seedlings to participants gathered in the State Capitol rotunda.

In an appeal to potential MFA members, President Schwen said that from its beginning, Association members hoped to: *become the conscience of forestry in Minnesota*. Maurice added that:

*Minnesota is a great state, a land blessed with natural resources... fresh water...forests...rich farm land...clean air...and great people. Our stewardship of these resources requires commitment from each of us.*

### ***The Private Woodlands Program***

In 1985 the Minnesota Forestry Association coordinated a new landowner contact program initiated by the National Forest Products Association (NFPA) and directed by a Private Woodlands Committee of representatives from groups which deal with small private woodland owners. Executive Director Suffron was the state coordinator, responsible for the formation and functioning of county committees in the pilot counties of Aitkin, Carlton, Cass and Crow Wing. The Mission Statement of the Private Woodlands Program says it:

*will be directed towards involving woodland owners, foresters from the public, private and education sectors, and other interested parties, to bring about better levels of forest management to the non-industrial private woodlands (NIPF) of Minnesota.*

The program was funded by grants from the NFPA and the Minnesota Forest Industries (MFI).

Sig Dolgaard, MFA Board member since 1980, received a great honor when he was elected a Fellow in the Society of American Foresters. Dolgaard worked for the U. S. Forest Service for over forty years. Retired banker and charter MFA member Marvin Campbell replaced Dolgaard on the Association Board.

Membership was at an all-time high of almost 900 at the time of the Board's two-day retreat in June of 1985. There were 33 family memberships (at \$15 each), 19 supporting (\$50), 36 sustaining (at a minimum of \$100 per year) and 43 life memberships, for a total of 889. An individ-

ual life membership was \$100 and a family life membership \$150. One of the main purposes of that Grand Rapids meeting was to provide an opportunity for executive director John Suffron to

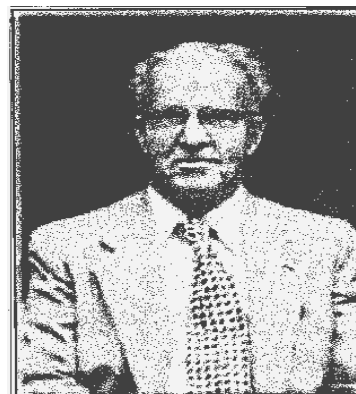
become acquainted with the members of the Board and their hopes for the future of the MFA. Mike Latimer announced that he intended to resign his part-time position as soon as an assistant could be hired to help Mr. Suffron.

The Board used the occasion of their first retreat to affirm that its major goal remains: *to inform and educate people on good forestry practice*. They also reaffirmed their policy of wide distribution of *Minnesota Forests* and established six standing committees and chairpersons:

Legislative, chaired by Wayne Hanson	Finance with chair Marvin Campbell
Nominating with chairperson Howard Olson	By- Laws, J. Donald Meyer
Communications, chaired by Scott Reed	Membership, to be chaired by immediate past president Maurice Schwen

The Board decided the Secretary-Treasurer should be paid \$50 per month. The board also determined that Blandin Lands and Forestry would receive the 1986 Larry Ritter Award. They also accepted the members of the Central Minnesota Small Woodlot Owners Association as individual members of the MFA.

Well over 100 members attended the 8<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Association at the Landscape Arboretum in Chanhassen. Forester Robert Herbst, a Minnesota native serving as executive director of Trout Unlimited, was the Friday evening speaker. Herbst, the former executive director of Keep Minnesota Green, expressed his concern that fire prevention education, reforestation and tree farming no longer receive the attention they deserve. Minnesota's popular Leon Snyder, the guest speaker on Saturday, focused on the history of the arboretum. Several resolutions were passed at the business meeting, including one appealing to Senators Durenberger and Boschwitz to support federal funding of \$2.5 million for the Renewable Natural Resources Extension Act.



Leon C. Snyder

Knotty Pine awards for unusual service to MFA were given to Robert Stine, Alan Wickman, Tom Kroll, John Licke, Maurice Schwen, Robert Herbst, Leon Snyder and Al Taylor.

Tom Witkowski, Chairman of the Minnesota State Tree Farm Committee, presented the Outstanding Minnesota Tree Farmer of the Year Award to Irene and Waldo Kick. The Kicks, from Pine City, had been tree farmers since 1946. Their 161- acre tree farm is in Region III. The

Board of Directors announced a new annual scholarship program for the College of Forestry at the University of Minnesota. A \$500 scholarship was to be awarded in honor of an MFA member who:

*has made a unique and distinguished contribution  
to the broad field of forestry.*

The Association's membership drive in November and December brought in 37 new members. Lans Hamilton recruited three of them, topping the list of *recruiters*. Anyone who recruited one or more new members was eligible for a drawing. Robert Urista of Edina won the top prize of \$100 and William Haugen from Washkish won a \$36 gift certificate to the Ordway. At the end of December 1985, membership topped 1,000 with a goal of 1,500 by the end of 1986.

In their 1985 report on the Minnesota Private Woodlands Program, the Association said:

*MFA views the accomplishments of the premier year of NFPA-NIPF programs as very encouraging. The dialogue among committee participants has been both candid and positive such that **a new feeling of cooperation has emerged.** (my emphasis) Regular attendees on each committee appear to be genuinely enthusiastic and strive to contribute positively to the progress of the overall NIPF mission. In addition, several lists of land-owners in portions of the four counties have been generated which will be incorporated into future mailing lists to receive information on forestry.*

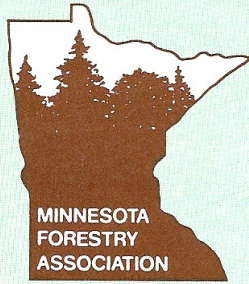
Grants from the National Forest Products Association and the Minnesota Forest Industries would fund the NIPF program for another two years. It was hoped that two new counties would be able to participate with the initial four pilot counties (Aitkin, Cass, Carlton and Crow Wing).

The Blandin Foundation agreed to fund development of a workshop to improve cooperation on forestry issues in the Lake States of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. A \$500 donation in memory of DNR Forestry Division Director Earl Adams was matched by the MFA and donated to the Forest History Center. The Association also gave the DNR a grant to reprint *Minnesota Trees*. The MFA was asked to coordinate the production of Minnesota's contribution to the film *Great American Woodlots*.

Early in 1986, Dawn Hull joined *Minnesota Forests'* editor Mike Latimer as assistant editor. Later, when John Suffron became editor, Hull was named managing editor.

The third *Old Logging Days* was held in Bemidji in February. Over 1,000 people participated in the celebration to honor the old time Minnesota lumber jacks. It was especially appropriate that several old time Jacks and one former camp cook joined in the reminiscing and story telling.

The Central Minnesota Small Woodlot Owners, one of MFA's group members, held their annual meeting on March 1, 1986 in Randall. Jerry Graba left the Board after serving for nine years; Bror Erickson, forest tree planter from the Brainerd area and John Kroll, whose tree farm



MINNESOTA  
FORESTRY  
ASSOCIATION

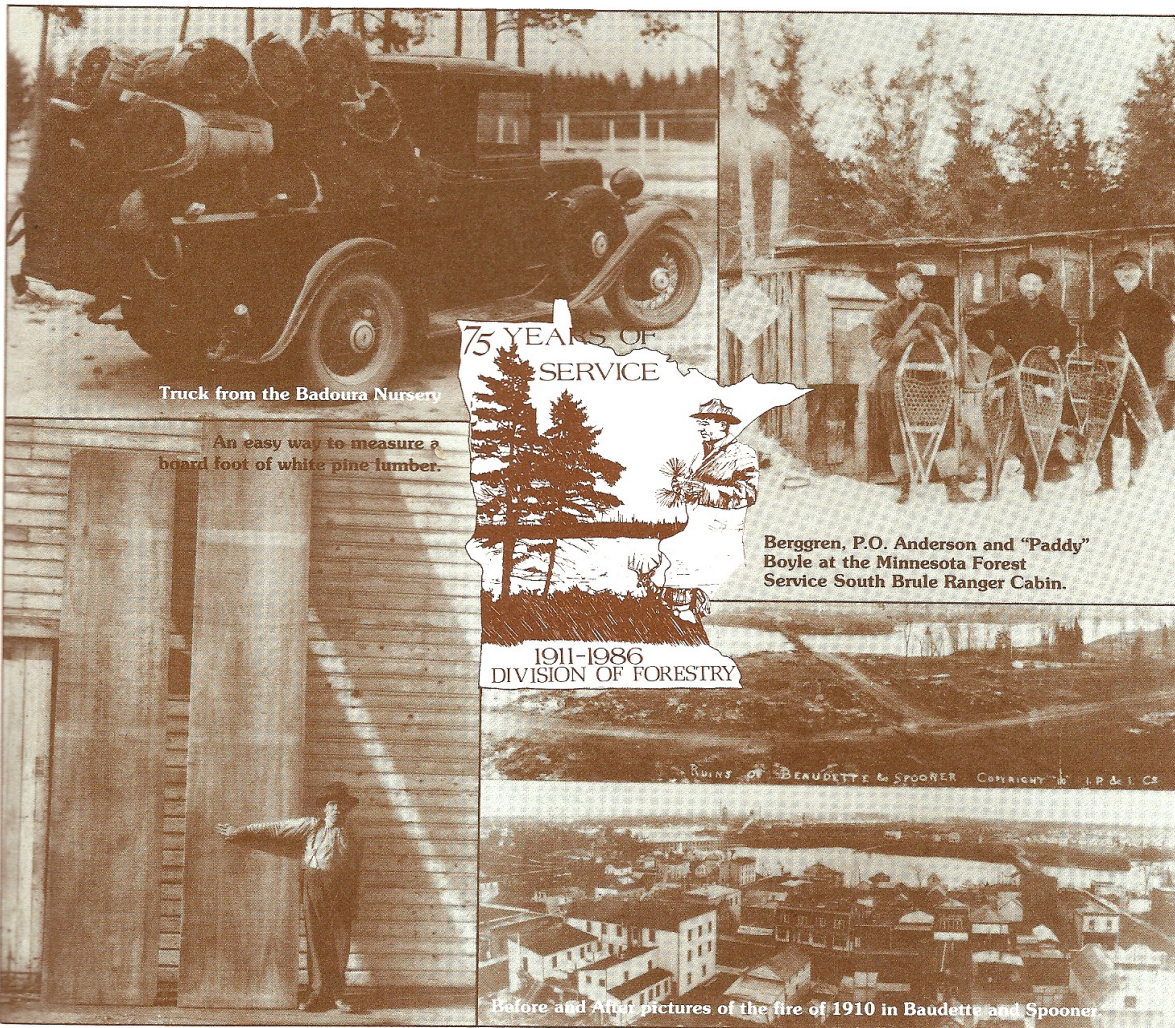
# Minnesota Forests

Better Forests for People, Wildlife and Timber

SUMMER 1986

## Forestry Celebrates 75th!

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Truck from the Badoura Nursery

An easy way to measure a board foot of white pine lumber.



Berggren, P.O. Anderson and "Paddy" Boyle at the Minnesota Forest Service South Brule Ranger Cabin.

1911-1986  
DIVISION OF FORESTRY

RUINS OF BAUDETTE & SPOONER. COPYRIGHT © J.P. & I. CO.

Before and After pictures of the fire of 1910 in Baudette and Spooner.

Photos provided by D.N.R. and the Minnesota Historical Society.

Commemorative Issue of the 75th Anniversary of the DNR

is near Long Prairie, were added to the Woodlot Owners Board. Minnesota Tree Farm Award winner Waldo Kick and family, along with then current MFA President Lansin Hamilton were featured in the Maine Public Broadcasting television series *Great American Woodlots*. The first annual MFA scholarship recipient was Audrey Koltes, a junior in the College of Forestry at the University of Minnesota.

In mid 1986, the National Guard was looking for 200,000 acres in northeast Minnesota for a training camp. Eventually, up to 100,000 personnel would train at the camp annually. Apparently

there was a second, but not necessarily subsidiary reason the Legislature was considering a National Guard training camp in northeast Minnesota. The nationwide recession of 1982 continued to have a severe impact on Minnesota's iron industry. The Butler Taconite Plant closed in 1985 and Reserve Mining went bankrupt in 1986. Many hoped a new training facility for the National Guard would help revitalize the economy of northeast Minnesota. However, there was growing

public concern over the environmental impacts of such a facility. Others were concerned about the impact of setting aside such a large tract of land on timber production and outdoor recreation.

At a later meeting, MFA members approved the following resolution:

*The National Guard has proposed a 200,000 acre northern training area in Lake, St. Louis and Itasca Counties which includes a forest resource that is very important to recreation, wildlife, and timber production. While the MFA recognizes the importance of adequate training areas for the National Guard, other needs must also be considered. Therefore, if the proposal is activated and a study carried out, the forestry community, including MFA, must be given the opportunity for input.*

Eventually, the Legislature decided the facilities at Fort Ripley were sufficient to meet the needs of the Guard so the search for a new training camp was abandoned.

The summer 1986 *Minnesota Forests* ran a two-page article on the history of the Minnesota Division of Forestry, on the occasion of its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This excellent summary was written by Don Wilson, who had retired from the DNR, and former MFA Executive Director Mike Latimer. The summary was excerpted from Wilson's book *Be A Forest Ranger* which was published in 1986. President Hamilton and Executive Director Suffron presented sustaining membership plaques at the April meeting of the Grand Rapids Chapter of MFA. Recipients were Cole Forest Products, Davis Petroleum, Simons Trucking, Russell Virden and the Minnesota Society of American Foresters. Bentz Oil was recognized as a supporting member. The Duluth Chapter was meeting regularly to plan the July 1986 annual meeting scheduled for the Twin Ports.

At the April Brainerd Chapter meeting, DNR Forester Tom Kroll presented a slide show developed during his two years in the forester exchange program with Germany. Kroll is the son of woodland owner and MFA Board member John Kroll.

Mary Kroll wrote a story about her father-in-law John Kroll for the March 2000 *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*. The story begins in the 1950s when forester Wayne Hanson, (whom we met earlier as the person who was mainly responsible for reviving the old forestry association in 1978), while visiting the Kroll family's woodland, suggested they consider utilizing their maple trees to produce syrup commercially. Mary tells us that John took Wayne's advice, which eventually led to the annual spring sugar making ritual involving their extended family and several neighbors.

These days, John enjoys reminiscing about his early work in their woodlot. The land has been in the family since it was purchased by his great-grandparents in 1890. Today the farm is run by John's son Hans, who proudly displays the *Century Farm* sign awarded to them by *Farmer's Magazine*. John has fond memories of forester Wayne Hanson's visits to the farm. In the early 1950s, Wayne cruised his woods and advised John to cut the Basswood trees. Later, Wayne purchased lumber from John to use for a home remodeling project.

But perhaps Wayne played an even more important role in the Kroll family. As a boy working in the woods with his father, young Tom Kroll knew of Wayne's visits and observed the knowledge of forestry his father learned from Wayne. Could Wayne's visits have been one factor in Tom's decision to become a forester? Tom says it probably had some effect as he recalled making a point to tell Wayne the story the first time he met Wayne after becoming a DNR forester.

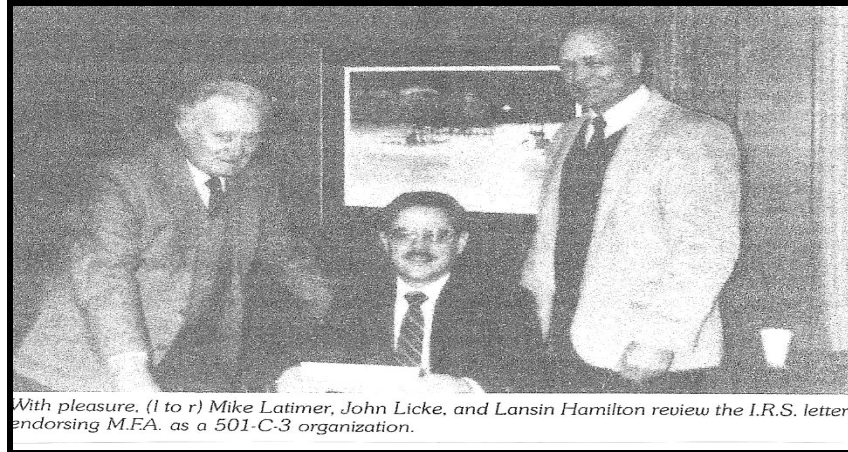
### 1987

The Association Board met in Lanesboro for its second retreat. They heard presentations about trout by Darrell Hanson, about walnuts by Robert Nelson, and on the popular subject of Shiitake mushrooms by Joe Deden. It was announced that the Forest Service agreed to fund a full-time NIPF coordinator to be supervised by the MFA and the DNR and that John Suffron is on the seven-member steering committee for the Lakes States Forestry Conference to be held in Minneapolis in April of 1987.

In May of 1987, Kathleen Preece was appointed Director of Publications and editor of *Minnesota Forests*. Preece had a degree in wildlife ecology/management and related work experience and four years experience as a journalist. Under her editorship, *Minnesota Forests* again increased in size, added more color and included more photos in each issue. The Association also published a members-only newsletter during this era. Kathleen was also given responsibility for all of the MFA's Arbor Day programs.

The annual Larry Ritter Award was given to John Licke of the Blandin Paper Company at the July meeting in Duluth. Midwest Federal received the new Distinguished Service Award for their contribution to the Arbor Day tree sale and for the publicity they gave the MFA in their advertising campaigns. Dr. Julius Wolff, Lake Superior shipwreck expert and retiree from the UMD Political Science Department, gave a talk on the history of forestry in Minnesota. Lance Hamilton and Stan Ringold were re-elected as MFA President and Secretary-Treasurer respectively. Howard Olson replaced Vice President Maurice Schwen. Bill Simmons, Chairman of the American Tree Farm System, presented the Minnesota Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year





With pleasure, (l to r) Mike Latimer, John Licke, and Lansin Hamilton review the I.R.S. letter endorsing M.F.A. as a 501-C-3 organization.

Award to Tom McMillin. In addition to his membership in MFA, Tom, who also won the 1983 Woodland Manager of the Year Award, was a member of five other forestry organizations.

EXTRA, EXTRA: Minnesota Forestry Association President Lansin Hamilton predicts the Association will: *grow and grow* and will eventually have *10,000 members*.

Writing in the Winter 1987 issue of *Minnesota Forests*, Hamilton, a forester and charter member of the MFA, said that in the future, members will be drawn from throughout the Lake States. That same issue carried a long-awaited announcement of great significance. In November the Internal Revenue Service granted the Association 501 C-3 non-profit tax exempt status. The MFA became tax exempt (meaning it did not have to pay federal taxes) in January of 1979. However, the new standing is considerably broader. With it, contributions to the Association be tax deductible and the MFA will be allowed to solicit funds from foundations and corporations.

\* \* \* \* \*

Here are a few significant events which took place outside of the world of forestry in 1987: The first Palestinian revolt (intifada) erupted in the Gaza Strip and spread to the West Bank. Herbert Ernesto Anaya, president of the Salvadorian Human Rights Commission, was assassinated by two gunmen as his children watched. The U.S. and the U.S.S.R. agreed to eliminate intermediate range nuclear missiles, and Margaret Thatcher and French President Mitterrand agreed to build a tunnel underneath the English Channel. Women's History Week became Women's History Month and the Census Bureau reported that the average woman earned sixty-eight cents for every dollar earned by a man. And not to be forgotten, the **Minnesota Twins** defeated the St Louis Cardinals to win the World Series and become the **World Champions** for 1987.

\*\*\*\*\*

SWCD forester Chuck Niska used the 1987 *Minnesota Forests* to describe the results of the first two years of the Minnesota Private Woodlands Program. That project, as explained above, was sponsored by the National Forest Products Association and coordinated by the MFA's Executive Director John Suffron. The program was designed to *intensify forest management on non-industrial private forest land* (NIPF). The Minnesota Forestry Association formed committees designed to bring together small woodland owners and resource managers to find better

ways to educate owners about appropriate *methods of timber harvesting, forest regeneration and overall forest improvement.*

Aitkin, Carlton, Cass and Crow Wing counties were chosen for a pilot project to assess the effectiveness of the plan. Extensive field inventories to provide the basic information for intensified management assistance were carried out in Aitkin and Carlton counties. The first step in such an inventory was to determine the cover types on the private land in each section of a township. There followed either field visits or a viewing from public roads or the use of aerial photos to determine specific cover types. The information gathered would: *help provide useful direction for creating increased management assistance opportunities for private landowners.*

Meanwhile, each of the four county committees sponsored a variety of tours, meetings, slide shows, banquets and other opportunities for teaching forest management techniques to private woodland owners and to acquaint the owners with the resource managers who were available in their area.

Executive Director Suffron met with the Duluth Chapter of the Association at the offices of Minnesota Power in April. The meeting included an audio-visual presentation on the importance of logging in Minnesota, entitled *Eight Voices in the Forest.*

### ***Chapter XI*** ***The Governor's Conference***

*In unprecedented historic action the governors of the three Great Lakes states of Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin signed an alliance promising cooperation and coordination of the region's forest policies programs and resources.*

*(Minnesota Forests, Summer 1987)*

This alliance, with so much potential, was agreed to at the April *Upper Great Lakes Governor's Conference on Forestry.* Governor Rudy Perpich welcomed Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson and a representative of Michigan's Governor James J. Blanchard and over 250 natural resource leaders to the conference site in Minneapolis. The Minnesota Forestry Association was one of the 80 sponsoring organizations and Executive Director John Suffron served on the committee which planned the conference. The first sentence of the agreement says:

*We, the Governors of the three Upper Great Lakes States, support cooperative efforts to improve management and promote wise use of forest lands in the three states.*



*Gov. Rudy Perpich, 1988*

### *Additional Staff*

Chris Brokl, a consulting forester, resigned the Vice Presidency of MFA's Region V in mid-May to become director of field operations for the MFA. He also took on the responsibility of administering all MFA forest productivity initiatives and for directing field programs with MFA Chapters throughout Minnesota. Chris said he hoped to *promote: as much cooperation with as many different groups as possible*. He also wanted to organize a meeting of Lake States' landowners for exchanging ideas about successful forestry techniques and projects.

Kathleen Preece replaced Suffron as editor of *Minnesota Forests* with the summer issue of 1987. Circulation of the Association's 16- page publication was just short of 20,000 when Preece said they were:

*planning more photos, a diversity in the subjects covered and an expansion in the number of pages in the publication, hopefully in the 1988 winter edition. Of course, all of this takes time and will proceed as funding is secured.*

That summer issue was also the last one produced during Lance Hamilton's two years as MFA President. Howard Olson became the new Association President at the July 1987 annual meeting at Rutger's Bay Lake Lodge. Olson was a graduate of the University of Minnesota Forestry

Management program. As a student he was active in the University Forestry Club, one of the oldest student groups on campus. The club's annual publication, the *Gopher Peavey*, was first published in 1921. During his senior year, Olson was treasurer of the *Peavey* staff. Recall that he was at that first MFA meeting in January of 1978 and at that time agreed to chair the membership committee. Tom Houghtaling of Duluth was chosen as the new Vice President. Upon taking over the presidency, Olson said:

*Our organization at this point in Minnesota forest history, is in a strong position to have a "catalytic" effect on worthwhile forestry programs and to be of assistance to other natural resource organizations and agencies. To do this most effectively, it is imperative that we keep our membership at maximum strength and take all possible action to assure needed financial undergirding.*

The MFA Board met with Bob Voigt of Fundraising Management to discuss the Association's long-range fundraising. MFA's recently acquired 501 C-3 status gave it the same fundraising advantages as the other 2,300 Minnesota 501 C-3s. The Board agreed to spend up to \$3,000 for Fundraising Management's assistance in planning and carrying out a fundraising campaign. Chairmen Bob Merz of the Metro Chapter; Jack Anderson, Brainerd; and Blake Francis from Duluth reported on their Chapters' activities.

The Aitkin County Private Woodland Committee developed a county Natural Resource Directory for NIPF landowners. The committee also had a county-wide *Big Tree* hunt, which sought to locate the largest tree of each species growing in the county. They had located one state champion, a yellow birch in Ball Bluff Township. The Cass County committee prepared a Natural Resource Directory in cooperation with the Pequot Lakes newspaper and also planned a field day and a big tree contest. Graduates of the Volunteer Woodland Wildlife Advisory Program joined the Carlton County committee, which planned a forest management tour. Itasca County scheduled two forestry tours, one at the Forest History Center and the other at the Grand Rapids Forest Experiment Station. Lansin Hamilton and Jack Anderson presented programs on the MFA to the Rotary, Kiwanis and Garden Clubs.

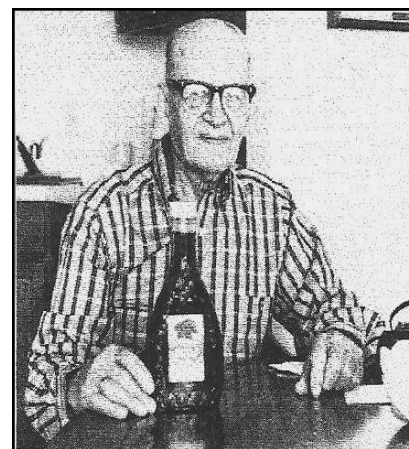
The Brainerd Chapter's annual banquet was held at the Grand View Lodge, following a tour of the resort's gardens led by horticulturist Ann Rauche. The after dinner speakers were Curt Cogan who spoke on forest fires, Gary Drotts on wildlife habitat and Darwin Anderson on the nursery stock-wildlife program. The concluding presentation was by Ray Hitchcock from the St. Paul Commissioner's office.

Eric Johnson, on behalf of the U. S. President's Citation Program for Private Sector Initiatives awarded the Minnesota Forestry Association the prestigious red, white and blue C-Flag. The flag, which symbolizes *We Can and We Care*, was given annually to organizations which made extraordinary contributions to their communities. The MFA was honored primarily for its successful Arbor Day Tree Seedling program, during which they sold over 61,000 trees in 1987.

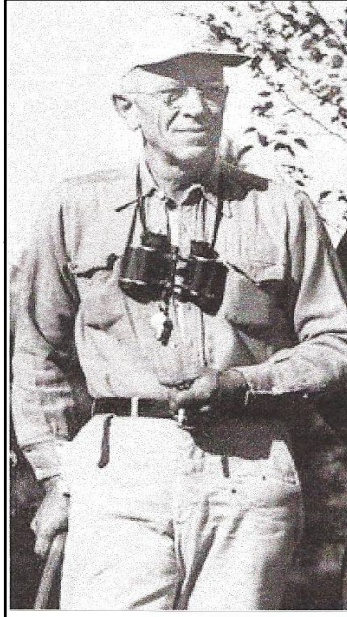
Brian Kopas, senior forest products major at the University of Minnesota, received the Association's 1987 Forestry Scholarship. Brian was co-editor of the *Peavey* and planned to work for Weyerhaeuser in Marshfield after graduation. The scholarship was given in honor of Frank Kaufert, dean emeritus of the College of Forestry and a charter member of MFA.

The summer issue of *Minnesota Forests* carried the story of a promising innovation to be tried in six counties of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, which had been given to Michigan as a consolation prize when they lost the Toledo War in 1836. Over two hundred landowners formed Michigan's first landowner forestry management/marketing cooperative. Forestry cooperatives were common in Europe. Private woodland owners were anxious to see how this *new concept fits into the scheme of things in Michigan*.

The Association chose the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Aldo Leopold's birth to honor 91 year old Carl Anderson as Central Minnesota's Tree Farmer of the Year. Leopold, Wisconsin forester and conservationist, was the author of the popular *Sand County Almanac*, in which he gave eloquent expression to a conservation philosophy held by many members of the Minnesota Forestry Association today:



*Carl Anderson with maple syrup*



*Aldo Leopold*

*We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong; we may begin to use it with love and respect.*

Anderson, called a *Minnesota kind of Aldo Leopold*, was a WW I veteran and had been a teacher. However, his 27 years in the Army Corps of Engineers was when he developed much of his love of nature and his skills as a *naturalist*. Carl's tree farm was on Bass Lake, near Grand Rapids; he and wife Cora also owned acreage in Chisago County. The Andersons harvested firewood, Christmas trees and many thousands of board feet of lumber; but perhaps their favorite product was the maple syrup they harvested from their sugar bush each year.

Paul Schurke, co-leader of the team of explorers which reached the North Pole by dog sled in May of 1986 was the banquet speaker at the Association's 10<sup>th</sup> annual meeting on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 1987. Almost 200 people gathered at Rutger's Bay Lake Lodge near Deerwood to hear Paul and see his amazing slide show. The meeting included noted wildlife speakers on bald eagles, ruffed grouse, and Minnesota predators such as wolves and bobcats. There was also a tour of Association President Lansin Hamilton's 200- acre tree farm and a Christmas tree shearing demonstration by the director of MFA's Region III, Chuck Widmark. Carl Anderson had the honor of being the oldest member present. Ninety-one-year old Anderson was honored, not only for the management of his own tree farm, but for his willingness to share his experience by teaching others.

In 1987 the entire country celebrated the Bicentennial of the signing of the U.S. Constitution. It was a year to honor our national heritage, of which the Constitution is arguably the most important document. Of course, our heritage incorporates many other treasures, including our *living inheritance*. From the founding of the United States to the 1987 Bicentennial, the forests of our country played a crucial role in the development of the United States by providing firewood, building supplies, wildlife, recreation and jobs. Thus it is fitting that the tenth year of leadership in forestry issues by the newly revived Minnesota Forestry Association coincided with the Bicentennial of the Constitution of the United States. It is doubly appropriate when we consider that 1987 is the 100th anniversary of the birth of forester Aldo Leopold, a pioneer in the conservation movement.

Because of the confluence of these three important events (the Bicentennial of the Constitution, the Centennial of Leopold's birth and the tenth year of leadership by the revitalized Minnesota Forestry Association) we have chosen this as an appropriate place to end our history. However, before we stand aside, let's recall some of the memorable and occasionally painful events which took place in Minnesota in 1988.

\*\*\*\*\*

The year got off to a bad start when the Minnesota Vikings lost the NFC championship to the Washington Redskins, who then went on to win Super Bowl XXII. In spite of the pain of that loss, many Minnesotans will remember 1988 as the year of the terrible drought. Total precipitation from April through July was the second lowest in the past 100 years while temperatures were significantly above average.

It was also in 1988 that Anoka High graduate Gretchen Carlson was named Miss Minnesota; she then went on to become the first classical violinist to be crowned Miss America. Minnesota representative Michele Bachmann was one of Gretchen's childhood nannies. Congress passed the 1988 Federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act which soon caused a surge of Indian casinos and gambling in Minnesota.

Paul Giel, one of the greatest athletes in University of Minnesota history, had earlier signed with the New York Giants for a \$60,000 bonus. He was appointed athletic director at the University of Minnesota in 1971. In 1988 the athletic department was under investigation for improper payments to athletes and Giel was dismissed, although he was not blamed for the violations and, in fact, was offered a job in the University's development office. Harold Stassen had been the youngest Governor in Minnesota history and in the 1948 GOP presidential primary came close to eliminating New York Governor Dewey as a viable candidate. The 1988 campaign marked the ninth time Stassen sought the GOP presidential nomination.

\*\*\*\*\*

### *Afterword*

The first issue of *Minnesota Forests* in 1988 was up to 24 pages and the spring issue had 28 pages. In addition to Suffron, Brokl and Preece, Scott Reed and Barb Mutchle were named as members of the executive staff.

Two MFA members received awards which were announced by the MFA early in 1988. The MFA's first Executive Director, Mike Latimer, received the Buzz Ryan Award. Latimer, who served as MFA President in 1981-1982, received the honor from the DNR's Division of Forestry for his: *significant contributions to the profession of forestry and the forestry community.*

The Crow Wing River Environmental Education Council awarded former MFA President Lansin Hamilton their annual Environmental Quality Award, primarily for playing a key role in establishing 39 county forests and assisting the DNR with its recreation and timber management projects. Hamilton died on August 6, 2011.

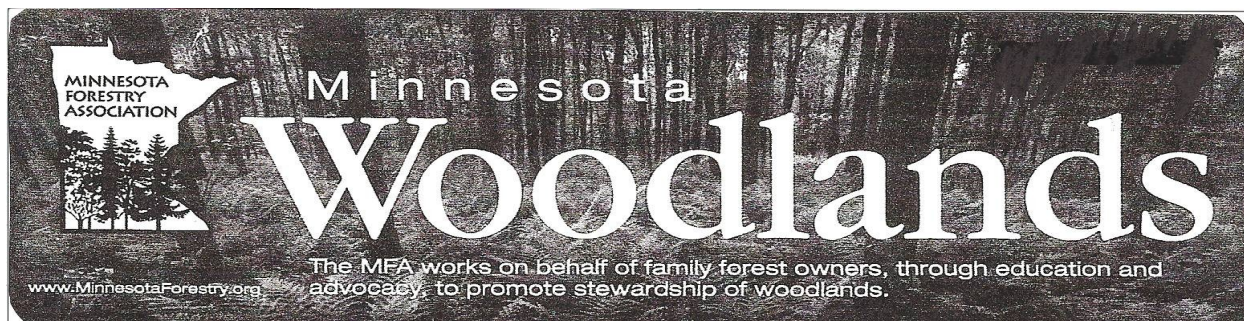
In early 1988 membership categories and fees were the same as they had been in 1985, except for the introduction of the Patron category at \$500. A \$25,000 grant from the Blandin Foundation was awarded to a three-county Non-Industrial Private Forestland Inventory pilot project in 1988.

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Demonstrations, exhibits, logging tales and strolling musicians greeted participants in the Forestry Fair on April 21 and 22, 1988 at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds. The fair was modeled on similar events in the Scandinavian countries. The intention was to:

*inform, educate and entertain the state's citizens on the contributions forests and the forest industry have made to Minnesota's economy and its quality of life.*

We conclude this afterword with an encouraging announcement from Association President Howard Olson. In the spring of 1988, Olson informed Association members that the MFA staff and Board would soon discuss the goal of launching a \$300,000 fund drive to support the Association as it worked to encourage responsible stewardship of Minnesota's woodlands.



***Advice From a Tree***

*Stand tall and proud;  
Sink your roots into the earth;  
Be content with your natural beauty;  
Go out on a limb;  
Drink plenty of water;  
Remember your roots;  
Enjoy the view!*

*Author unknown*

*Trees seem to do their feats so effortlessly. Every year a given tree creates absolutely from scratch ninety-nine percent of its living parts. Water lifting up tree trunks can climb one hundred and fifty feet an hour; in full summer a tree can, and does, heave a ton of water every day.*

*A big elm in a single season might make as many as six million leaves, wholly intricate, without budging an inch. I couldn't make one. A tree stands there, accumulating deadwood, mute and rigid as an obelisk, but secretly it seethes; it splits, sucks, and stretches; it heaves up tons and hurls them out in a green, fringed fling.*

*No person taps this free power; the dynamo in the tulip tree pumps out ever more tulip tree, and it runs on rain and air.*

From Annie Dillard's 1974 Pulitzer Prize winning

***Pilgrim at Tinker Creek***

*Plant trees until you are planted.  
Steve Rasmussen, Forester*

*Acts of creation are ordinarily reserved for gods and poets, but humbler folk may circumvent this restriction if they know how. To plant a pine, for example, one need be neither god nor poet; one need only own a good shovel. By virtue of this curious loophole in the rules, any clodhopper may say:*

*Let there be a tree—and there will be one.*

***Aldo Leopold***



## Acknowledgments

The first time we had the drinking water in our 150-year-old farmhouse tested for bacteria, the report came back TNTC (Too Numerous to Count). That's how I feel about the many who helped with the research for this history. Thanks first to John O'Reilly and Bruce ZumBahlen for their encouragement, assistance and for permission to use the MFA Archives. Special thanks to the staffs of the Minnesota State Historical Society Library and the University of Minnesota Archives, College of Forestry Papers. They provided many rich sources of information and most of the documents used for illustrations.

Special thanks to Carol Cartie who utilized her considerable editorial skills to scrutinize every page of this history, making a huge number of corrections and improvements.

I also want to recognize the special help of the following: John Bathke, Dr. Deborah Gangloff, Sue Guggenberger, Meg Hanisch, Terry Helbig, Bruce and Scott Humrickhouse, Keith Jacobson, Neal Kingsley, Tom, Mary and John Kroll, Derek Larson, Keith Matson, Curt Olson, Mike Reichenbach, Al Schacht, Duane Schlepper, Newell Searle, Barb Spears, John Suffron, Jim Towler, and Bette Vichore. Your contributions to this paper were invaluable. Thank you.

My wife Mary Lou photographed hundreds of documents, cut and pasted all of the illustrations and read, edited and reread each draft of this history. She not only remained cheerful throughout my years of obsession over this and other projects, but provided enthusiastic encouragement which motivated me to persevere.

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## LESSON OF NATURE.

In treating our soil so, and planting trees so, we are in fact copying nature's methods ever sure of success. By winds and birds and innumerable rodents she plants her forests where she can. The roots dip down deep, opening and loosening the hard soil better than the plow and cultivator, for they are permanent conduits for the surface water to filter into the pockets and chambers of the ground safely conserved for the root hairs to drink and carry up for wood structure. Then she covers with the best mulch in all the world—the healthful air and water-holding leaves that prevent undue evaporation, whose eventual decay feeds the trees in turn and makes a soil for future agriculture. She thus not only waters but shelters and enriches the soil with humus, but checks the winds, transpires humidity upon the air to green all the landscapes near and afar, and forms the lakes and rivers that are necessary to our farms and homes as are the heart-pools and veins to the human body. The lesson to learn and practice, then, is the lesson of forestry.

## MANAGEMENT OF FOREST SEEDS AND TREES.

Forest seeds procured from the most reliable seed stores, warranted to be fresh, may have been subjected to unseen influences, such as partial decomposition in transit or other causes, losing the germinating power. The farmer should try and raise seed bearing trees, and then he is sure to be safe in germination, if he attends to other necessary conditions as herein stated; and he should have a little forest nursery of his own, on the principle that forestry and agriculture are inseparable.

## DURATION OF GERMINATING POWER.

The duration of the germinating power of forest seeds is generally for a very short period, sometimes but a few months or even weeks, depending on circumstances and conditions, whether they are kept in their husks under cover or in the ground, secure from damp-rot and heat. With proper treatment, seeds of the hard maple, ash, box elder, basswood, pine, all of which mature in the fall, can be kept one year, or safely till the next spring.

## PRECARIOUS SEEDS.

Seeds of the poplars, including the cottonwood species, the willows, the elms, some birches, soft maples, etc., lose their power of germination soon after ripening in the early summer. Those of the oaks and other nut trees, maturing in the late fall, are also delicate keepers. As a rule all such species better be planted soon as gathered.

## TREES PER ACRE.

The following number of trees per acre are required when planting at the distance here indicated:

6 by 6 inches . . . . .	154,240	2 by 4 feet . . . . .	5,445
12 by 12 inches . . . . .	43,560	3 by 2 feet . . . . .	7,260
18 by 18 inches . . . . .	19,360	3 by 3 feet . . . . .	4,840
2 by 1 foot . . . . .	21,780	3 by 4 feet . . . . .	3,630
2 by 2 feet . . . . .	10,890	4 by 4 feet . . . . .	2,722

## MUTUAL SUPPORT.

Begin, then, densely for safety and mutual protection; thin out as necessary. Mix the trees. Have, say, five or six hundred per acre, light-needing substantial oaks, pines (white leading) spruces, elms, hickories, ashes, black walnuts, sugar maples, black cherries, placed at proper distances. In time these will hold sole possession. Succor these by pioneer trees, such as the box elders, the white willows, the soft maples, the butternuts, the bass woods, the poplars.

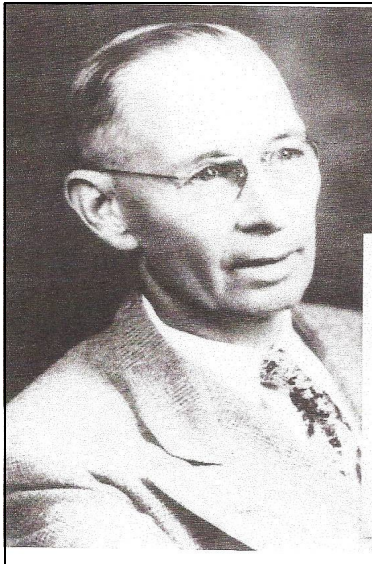
## CULL THE BEST OR POOREST—WHICH?

When your trees have grown large enough for fuel, building purposes, or fencing, will you follow the example of lumbering men, cull the best and leave the poorest? Will you thus make a truce of peace with the weeds and grasses, the winds and fires? It is the popular way, but it ruins your wind-break or forest. If you plant only for yourself, indifferent to the needs of your successors, with no love or pride for the beauty of the state, it is to be expected that when you are about to rot down, as you providentially deserve, your trees will perish with you, and the cyclone will howl a fitting requiem over your treeless, nameless grave.

## HOW TO PERPETUATE THE FOREST OR WINDBREAK.

It costs too much and the woodland lot is too precious as a protection and source of profit for fuel or lumber, to let it run out for want of proper care and attention. In the older settled portions of southern and central Minnesota, tree plantations have in places grown to such size as to necessitate special treatment for their perpetuity and use in constant improvements.

The first principles of preservation must be considered. As already hinted, the object to be sought is the self-sustaining capacity of the forested soil. Remember it is the crown cover, the woody underbrush and the heavy layer of well-decomposed humus, that intercept the effects of hot drying winds, and the compacting force of beating rains, which in the woods reach the ground gradually with only gentle friction, thus keeping the soil loose and granular, enabling the water to penetrate rapidly and make its capillary movements among the roots with perfect facility.



William T. Cox

**William Thomas Cox Obituary**

*Winona Daily News* Friday, January 27, 1961 pg 4 (or 6) c5&6

VOICE OF THE OUTDOORS Great Conservationist Dies

William T. "Bill" Cox passed away at his home in St. Paul on his birthday Wednesday. He was 83 years old. Bill was the grand old man of conservation in Minnesota. He was Minnesota's first state forester, Minnesota's first conservation commissioner, and the first superintendent of the Upper Mississippi River Wild Life Refuge with headquarters in Winona.

Bill was a pioneer in conservation, ranking with Gifford Pinchot and Theodore Roosevelt, both of whom were his close friends. He was author of several books. We just pulled one, a very humorous one, "Fearsome Creatures of the Lumberwoods," from our book case. It is a masterpiece of lumberjack days humor. He wrote a widely read column "Through Field and Forest," for *The Farmer* magazine for 13 years.

He had great conservation vision. He planted elk and moose in the wilderness area of Northern Minnesota and transplanted the first deer into the Upper Mississippi River Wild Life and Fish Refuge. George Winslow, still employed by the refuge here, was one of the rangers that went north, trapped the deer and turned them loose in the river bottom lands.

Bill had a vision of the wildlife refuge extending from bluff top to bluff top. He had the chief of the United States Forest Service come out from Washington, and with them we made a three-day tour on the refuge boat *Wood Duck* the length of the 300-mile refuge with side trips into the bluffs. The dream failed in congress, but today the proposed Upper Mississippi River Memorial Forest - started by Willis Kruger and Dick Dorer and the Izaak Walton League - is much more than a dream.

Purchasing the river bottom lands and organizing the refuge was a tough task. Bill Cox had a crew that filled most of the rooms on the second floor of the post office building. When Winonans who owned the vast West Newton bottoms agreed to terms and the drainage of the Winneshiek was stopped in courts, Cox won the battle.

His next adventure was exploring and valuing the forest resources of the Amazon valley for the Brazilian government. It took three years and many hardships but it was the source of a treasury of talks which he probably told until his last days. His last great fight was for a tribe of Indians in the courts in Washington. He got back for them ten million dollars stolen by the white men nearly a century before.

Bill was a great teacher. We are one of those indebted to him for our little knowledge of conservation. We recall many pleasant hours in his office listening to his discussion of outdoor subjects. He had a mint of information and a marvelous nose for news. He was always good for a story.

Once we surveyed ten acres of ground near Minnesota City for bird nests, we went over it by the square foot, counted each egg found, but never molested one. He identified each bird and pointed out to us its characteristics.

"I saw the best cat I ever saw in my life this morning," Bill told us one day.

"It had been run over by a truck and completely flattened out on the highway near Minneiska."

The story was put on the big wire by the Associated Press and carried in newspapers over the nation. Bill accumulated an envelope full of clippings from different newspapers mailed to him by friends, and naturally, some hot ones from cat lovers.

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**State Trees Remain Available in Wisconsin**

**WHITEHALL, Wis. (Special)**  
— According to Eric Jensen, district forester here, the Wisconsin Conservation Department still has trees of all species and age classes available. Tree order blanks can be obtained from SCS, Extension and Forestry offices.

**Good Stock Available**

**Tree Planting Urged On Minnesota Farms**

*[Faded text from a newspaper clipping, likely the article mentioned in the caption below.]*

Coincidentally, the day the above obituary ran in the Winona Daily News, appropriately two articles about trees also appeared.











