

THE VOICE OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

TIMBER BULLETIN

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

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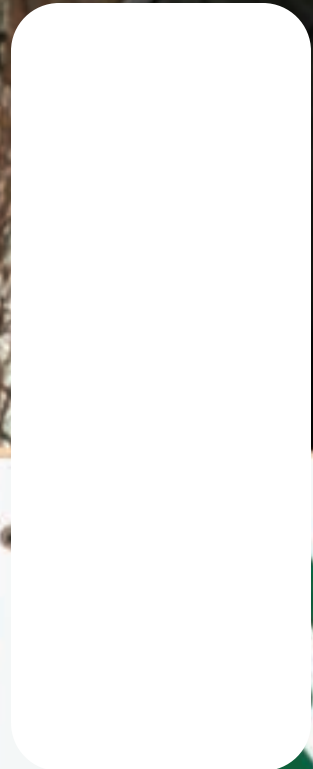
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Tim Kelm -

Felling Obstacles, Staying Positive

Lessons from Losses

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TIMBER BULLETIN

Volume 64
January/February 2008
Duluth, Minnesota

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ON THE COVER

Sen. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook) talks to the media about SFI-Habitat for Humanity project that used his timber and will result in a new home.

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This January has seemed liked a normal winter. It has been a long time since we have had -20 temperatures in the Duluth area. Hopefully everyone has haul roads and skid trails frozen down.

Another note of the downturn in the building industry is the

President's Column



temporary shutdown of the Ainsworth plant at Cook. It seems as though every column I write has some bad news. If any of you are having fuel problems or have discovered a solution for fuel problems, please let Ray Higgins know in the TPA office, 722-5013.

It is not too early to start marking your calendars for upcoming classes and events: MLEP/LogSafe Logger Conferences (April 8-9 at Fortune Bay in Tower, and April 16-17 at the Hampton Inn in Bemidji), MTPA Annual Meeting (June 12-13 at Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge, Grand Rapids) with the golf & fishing outings, and the North Star Expo (Sept. 12-13 at Beltrami County Fairgrounds in Bemidji).

Remember to work safely during the remaining weeks of winter.

Thomas C. Meche

Mark Your Calendar

Here are some of the events in the coming months you'll want to make sure are on your calendar:

- April 8-9 Tower Logger Conference
- April 16-17 Bemidji Logger Conference
- June 10 Workshop: "How to Prepare for DOT Audit" in Bemidji
- June 12 TPA Annual Meeting and Golf/Fishing at Rutger's Sugar Lake Lodge
- Sept. 4-6 63rd Annual Lake States Logging Congress
Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association
Shopko Hall and Lambeau Field
Green Bay, Wisconsin
www.timberpa.com
- Sept. 12-13 2008 North Star Expo in Bemidji
- Oct. 9 Workshop: "How to Prepare for DOT Audit" in Grand Rapids

For information further information on these events, please call the TPA office at 218-722-5013

Logger of the Year Nominations Being Accepted

The Minnesota Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Program Implementation Committee is now accepting nominations for its 2008 Logger of the Year Award. The winning logger will receive a \$500 cash reward and "2008 Logger of the Year" plaque.

To nominate an outstanding logger, a short nomination form needs to be completed, along with a description of why the nominee should receive the Minnesota SFI Implementation Committee Logger of the Year Award. Nominations should include information about how the nominee excels in the areas of forest management, timber harvesting, business management, safety, and other information.

Nominations are due March 21, 2008. The winner will be notified in April and the award will be presented at the MLEP Logger Conferences.

The goals of the Logger of the Year program are to recognize outstanding independent logging contractor performance, increase the visibility of competent professional independent logging contractors within the forestry community, encourage peers (other independent logging contractors) to

emulate the outstanding performance of award winners, and improve forester-logger-landowner relations by publicly recognizing outstanding logging performance as an essential element of every planned timber harvest.

To receive a nomination form, contact the Minnesota SFI Implementation Committee at 218-722-5013.

A big thank you to Senator Norm Coleman and his staff for working hard on TPA's initiative to get more funding for U.S. Forest Service timber sales. The senator recently informed us that the Superior and Chippewa National Forests would be getting an extra \$2 million this fiscal year. Senator

**Executive Vice
President's
Column**



Senator Coleman worked hard all fall to get this done.



The SFI State Implementation committee teamed up with Habitat

Coleman personally spoke with the acting Secretary of Agriculture about this issue. This

successful effort should result in a significant increase in the number of cords being offered for sale by the two forests. TPA and

for Humanity, TPA Director Cliff Shermer, Ainsworth and State Senator Tom Bakk on a great project in January. The project (see story elsewhere in this issue of the *Timber Bulletin*) was a charity harvest to help build a Habitat for Humanity House. Senator Bakk donated the wood, Cliff Shermer did the logging and Ainsworth will process the wood into OSB. A number of other companies donated funds to the project. The story was covered by two TV stations, five local papers and has been picked up by scores of media outlets across the country and in Europe.



SFI is the leading certification system in North America. SFI has 143.7 million acres that are certified. An additional 27.5 million acres are in the Tree Farm program, which has a mutual recognition agreement with SFI. The Forest Stewardships Council (FSC) has 82.3 million certified acres. Eighty-two percent of the

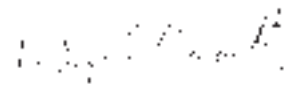
pulpwood production in the U.S. goes through a certified SFI procurement system and 23% of all pulpwood produced in the U.S. is from a SFI certified forest and an additional 2% is from a Tree Farm certified forest. Our Minnesota State Implementation Committee does a great job with this program and has twice been recognized as the State Implementation Committee of the year.



Sadly, longtime DNR and Forest Resources Council staffer Mike Phillips passed away. Mike, who suffered an aneurysm and strokes last May fought valiantly and had made remarkable progress before he died at home. TPA members will recall Mike's numerous appearances at our Annual Meetings. Many of our members also served on various committees that he staffed so ably through the years. Mike made a lasting impact on forest resource management in our state and will be sorely missed.



Sometimes it's the little things that make a difference. We've recently gotten a few calls in the office about debris coming off of log trailers after they've been unloaded at mills. This is a seemingly small thing but our image and being a good neighbor are always important. So, make sure your drivers have a broom and sweep those trailers off before you hit the road again. Thank you.



Member Feature...



Logger Tim Kelm at a 1,400-cord job site north of Fourtown.

Tim Kelm

Felling Obstacles, Staying Positive

by Ray Higgins

Working on a 1,400-cord sale north of Fourtown, nearly two hours from their homes in Bemidji, the crew from Tim Kelm Logging begins arriving at the job site around 6:30 in the morning, but they've been going home a bit early lately.

"We normally work later," Kelm

says. "But this has a bunch of dead balm in it and it's just a bugger to bunch in the dark. The sun is going down around a little after five, so that pretty much does it for us. The next job is all popple, pretty much in one block, so we'll go back to running longer days."

When you're out before the crack

of dawn, you don't even get the benefit of a beautiful northern Minnesota sunrise. And once the January day finally brightens, it's apparent it will be an overcast Minnesota winter morning. But Kelm will take it. After a stretch of above freezing temperatures, it's finally cooling down at night. Not into the single digits, but cold enough to start firming up the ground and maybe begin freezing the swamps.

"That 40 degree weather we had the other day," he says, "that was a pain. They're not talking any real cold right now at all. When I left the house this morning, it was 21 degrees. That isn't much in the swamp. I've got three miles of swamp to freeze down here. I need some cold weather."

But Kelm stays positive, knowing that in tough economic times, any weather to operate is good weather. Fortunately, the ground here is high, meaning the recent warmer weather didn't slow him down much.

"The block we cut over here," he says, "there were two softer spots in it, but nothing serious."

It's terrain Kelm knows well. At age 46, he's been all over this neck of the woods.

"We actually put this road in about 16-17 years ago in the summertime," Kelm says, pointing to the north. "We cut this big area off out here in the middle of summer."

"Then about seven years ago," he says, turning and pointing to the south, "we were right over here. There's a 'Y' in the road right behind the slasher. We went up in there and there was blowdown. We took that out of here about seven years ago."

That's a snapshot into Tim Kelm's life in the woods. He started as a kid, following his dad around. Frank Kelm wasn't a full-time logger. Like so many back in the day, he farmed some and had cattle, too. And Tim was right there on his heels as his dad went about his business.

"I'd run a measuring stick for my dad," Tim says. "I must have been seven years old. I followed him everywhere. Even through the thick brush. You couldn't keep up, but you did it."



Tim Kelm harvests aspen with his Timbco 425 feller buncher.



Tim Kelm Logging's Prentice loader and Hanfab slasher. Because Kelm's three-man crew is versatile, both Tim and Rich Kelm spend time slashing and loading.

Tim's brother, Rich, is 13 years older, and he too helped out. When Frank's health soured, meaning he had to give the business up, Rich stepped in. He had a 440 cable skidder and a 450 crawler with a shear on it, and Tim helped in the summertime, either in the woods or on the farm. After graduating from Bemidji High in 1980, Tim went to work full-time with Rich, even buying a used grapple skidder. Eventually, Tim took over the business.

"We worked in the woods like that for a couple-three years, and then he said basically, this is yours to take care of and kind of turned it over to me at that point," Tim says.

Tim has been able to grow the business ever since. In 1986, he bought a new 648 skidder and now, he says, "we have two skidders, a delimeter, buncher, the whole nine yards."

Rich is still working with Tim, and together with Myron Sorgaard, make up a three man conventional crew. Tim runs the Timbco 425 buncher and when he gets ahead, he'll go run the Prentice loader and Hanfab slasher. Myron operates the John Deere 2054 delimeter, and Rich drives the Deere 748G3 skidder and slashes. Both Rich and Myron will load and deliver to the mill, so all three are versatile, keeping things running smoothly.

Tim's family also helps out. Wife Deb handles the books and sons Trevor (17) and Dallas (15) help out in the woods when they're needed, including on weekends and over their Christmas vacation from Bemidji High.

"Right now, Myron's my only employee," Tim says. "I had two other guys working for me year-round. Myron would come and help in the winter time. And then last year we ran out of wood in February, so we started calving at end of March. I was keeping busy on the farm in spring and summer, we were working on the equipment and doing that kind of stuff, but once we were done with that, I just didn't have any wood to cut, money was tight and my guys found jobs elsewhere. With only the three of us, we're less productive than we used to be. Right now we're cutting about a dozen loads per day, versus when I



Tim Kelm Logging's John Deere 748G3 skidder, operated by Rich Kelm.



The John Deere 2054 delimeter, operated by Myron Sorgaard.

had a full crew we'd put up 20-30 loads a day."

That's a situation all too familiar to loggers throughout Minnesota. Kelm buys his own stumpage and sells it almost exclusively to Norbord. He's worked with other mills as well in the past, but with markets tight, Norbord is his major customer.

"I try not to put all my eggs in one basket," Kelm says. "I learned that from Rich. He used to cut

tamarack north of Red Lake during winters. There was a time with the tamarack where he was delivering everything to one broker, but then the next winter the mill only wanted x number of cords from each broker, so he didn't have hardly anything to cut that winter. I've been in it for most of 30 years and there have been times it's been terrible. Since the board mills have been here it's been a lot better, but I remember when the mills weren't

here and it was hit and miss what you could sell. One winter you could sell everything you could cut, and the next it would be different.

"The mills aren't making any money. How long are they going to keep running if they're not making any money? I don't care how many millions they made three years ago, four years ago. The bottom line is they want to make money every year, and I understand that. In the logging business, we're used to having a year where you may not make much, if anything, but you just keep going because it averages out. But the mills, they don't look at it that way," he says.

Kelm is doing what he can to make it work. For example, he turned back this sale to the DNR and was able to buy it back for about a fourth of the price. That's helped offset rising costs in other parts of the operation, like diesel. And along with the logging and farming businesses, the family owns Marty Brothers in Bagley, selling gas, fuel, feed, oil, and tires.

In addition, his logging equipment is newer. The buncher is only six years old, and he bought the skidder four years ago and the limber in 2005. Kelm says that's going to help in the long run.

"My philosophy's always been," he says, "I'd rather make payments on a new piece of equipment, as opposed to be down and working on an old piece that's not making any money. I was there once. I'm in a situation where my equipment is new enough, and we do try to keep up on the maintenance as hard as we can. We just put an under-carriage underneath the buncher this fall. Yeah, we'll stick some money into it now and then. I'm guessing there's between 4500 and 5000 hours on the machine, and I see a lot of them advertised for sale with 8-9 thousand hours on them. And the amount of hours we're putting on them now, 700-800 hours a year is all we're going to be putting on it the way things are right now unless things change.

"I plan to be in it for the long-haul. I have too much time and money invested in this operation to walk away from it."

FMCSA Issues Hours of Service Ruling

Truck drivers will continue to be limited to driving only 11 hours within a 14-hour duty period, after which they must go off duty for at least 10 hours under an Interim Final Rule (IFR) made public by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). The IFR was developed after new data showed that safety levels have been maintained since the 11-hour driving limit was first

implemented in 2003.

Timber Talk

"This proposal keeps in place hours-of-service limits that improve highway safety by ensuring that

drivers are rested and ready to work," FMCSA Administrator John H. Hill said. "The data makes clear that these rules continue to protect drivers, make our roads safer and keep our economy moving."

The agency noted that, in 2006, the fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled was 1.94 – the lowest rate ever recorded. Similarly, since 2003, the percentage of large trucks involved in fatigue-related fatal crashes in the 11th hour of driving has remained below the average of the years 1991-2002. In 2005 alone, the agency noted, there was only one large truck involved in a fatigue-related fatal crash in the 11th hour of driving while in 2004 there were none.

In addition, between 2003, when the 11-hour driving limit and the 34-hour restart were adopted, and 2006, the percent of fatigue-related large truck crashes relative to all fatal large truck crashes has remained consistent. And the agency's estimates show that only seven percent of large truck crashes are fatigue related.

Hill noted that the agency also is working to finalize a proposed rule that would require drivers and trucking companies with serious or repeat hours-of-service violations to track their hours of service using electronic on-board recorders.

The agency issued the new hours of service rule in response to the recent decision by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals vacating key provisions of the existing hours of service rules effective on Dec. 27. In order to ensure no gap in coverage of these important safety rules, the rule temporarily reinstates those two

provisions while the agency gathers public comment on its actions and the underlying safety analysis before issuing a final rule.

The IFR is available at:
<http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/about/news/news-releases/2007/hos.pdf>

Boise Sold, No Changes Anticipated at Falls Mill

Shareholders of Aldabra approved the acquisition of Boise Cascade, L.L.C.'s Paper, Packaging & Newsprint, and Transportation businesses. The sale is expected to close before the end of February. At that time, the new company will become known as Boise Inc.

"This is a win-win for those going to Boise Inc. and those remaining with Boise Cascade," said Tom Stephens, CEO of Boise Cascade.

"Boise Inc. will be a public company owning Paper, Packaging & Newsprint, and Transportation operations, which will give it access to capital markets," Stephens said. "At the same time, Boise Cascade, which will continue to own and operate Wood Products and Building Materials Distribution, will use cash received from the transaction to pay down debt."

The new company manufactures and sells uncoated free sheet paper (including printer and copy paper, label and release papers, envelope and commercial printing papers, and a wide range of premium and specialty papers), market pulp, and containerboard (corrugating medium). Boise has approximately 4,700 employees.

Milne Moves From Beltrami County to DNR; New Commissioner Sought

Bob Milne has resigned as Beltrami County Land Commissioner to take a job as Regional Lands Specialist with the DNR. Milne began his new position on Jan. 30.

"I have been with the county since 1989 and it has been a fantastic experience," Milne said. "I can't say enough about the great people that I have had the opportunity to work with and for. County staff, land

commissioners and the Forest Resources Partnership have been just a few of the highlights, but there have also been so many others."

Beltrami County is conducting a search for a person to succeed Milne. The position was posted and closed on Feb. 4. Greg Snyder is serving as Interim Land Commissioner. He says the County hopes to have the position filled by the end of March.

NewPage Acquires Stora Enso

NewPage Corporation, the largest printing paper manufacturer in North America based on production capacity, has purchased Stora Enso North America, including the paper mill in Duluth.

As a result, NewPage is closing former Stora mills in Kimberly and Niagara, Wisconsin as well as a paper machine in Rumford, Maine and a converting facility in Chillicothe, Ohio this year. The moves will impact roughly 660 employees at the four facilities.

"NewPage is combining its business with Stora Enso with the vision of becoming the best printing paper company in North America," said Mark A. Suwyn, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of NewPage. "These restructuring decisions will create the platform essential to become one company, remain competitive in the marketplace, serve our customers more efficiently and reach \$265 million of synergies we have committed to achieve. Despite the permanent closures, we are merging the operations in a manner that will actually increase our 2008 North American production by 3-8% compared to the combined production in 2007."

Products produced on the closed machines will be transitioned to more efficient paper machines within the company's integrated mill system, including Duluth. "In addition to the changes to these operations and their employees, we are also informing personnel in all areas of the company such as sales, finance and other support functions of the longer term plans for their departments," added Suwyn. NewPage is taking appropriate actions to assist the affected employees with new

opportunities or benefits packages.

Headquartered in Miamisburg, Ohio, NewPage Corporation owns paper mills in Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nova Scotia, and Wisconsin. These mills have a total annual production capacity of approximately 5.5 million tons of paper, including 4.3 million tons of coated paper, 920,000 tons of uncoated paper and 300,000 tons of specialty paper, as well as approximately 3.2 million tons of pulp.

TPA Member Anwiler Dies

Longtime TPA member Ken Anwiler of Grand Rapids died in January at the age of 50. Anwiler grew up north of Bovey, graduated from Greenway high school and went to work with his father's logging business. Ken is survived by his two children Erica and Derek, two grandchildren, and seven brothers and sisters.



Former TPA Member Promersberger Dies

Retired logger, sawmill operator, and former TPA member Bernard Lee



Promersberger, 73, a life-long resident of Littlefork, passed away in December.

Bernard was born Dec. 13, 1934 at the Littlefork Municipal Hospital, graduated from Littlefork-Big Falls High School in 1952, and married his high school sweetheart, Josie Popejoy in 1953. They raised four children, owned a sawmill and logging business, and raised and showed horses. They enjoyed watching their grand and great-grandchildren grow up and spending time at their cabin on Rainy Lake.

Bernard semi-retired in 2005, but he drove truck part-time for DeLack Logging.

Bernard is survived by his wife Josie, three sons, Robert, Dale, and Marty, and daughter, Wendy Jo; and 10 grandchildren.

SFI Program Marks Record Growth

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative®

(SFI®) program recorded substantial growth in 2007, including a 750 percent increase in locations with SFI chain-of-custody certification that can track products from certified forests.

"We started 2007 with 21 certificates at 48 locations, and ended it with 102 SFI chain-of-custody certifications at 408 certified locations," SFI Inc. President and CEO Kathy Abusow said. "This represents a 386 percent

increase in certificates and a 750 percent increase in certified locations – and it appears the momentum will continue in 2008."

There was also an impressive increase in the amount of SFI-certified lands – to 143.7 million acres (58.1 million hectares) at the end of 2007 from 135 million acres (54.6 million hectares) at the end of 2006. The SFI sustainable forestry

certification program is one of the largest in the world, with a standard based on principles and measures that promote sustainability including measures to protect water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, species at risk and forests of exceptional conservation value.

Abusow said she was not surprised by the SFI program's growth. "More companies and more consumers are understanding the benefits of forest certification, and know that when they see the SFI label on a product – be it a juice box, printer paper or a two-by-four – that the wood fiber in that product is from a legal and well-managed source."

Companies that recently earned SFI chain-of-custody certification include Quebecor World, EarthColor, Smith-Litho, xpedx, Graphic Communications, JELD-WEN and RR Donnelly's plant in Chamblee, GA. Program participants that recently had lands certified include BC Timber Sales, Crown Pine Parent, Downie Street Sawmills, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Scotch Plywood Company and Evergreen Pulp Inc.

Tick Pants Available

Although we don't endorse products, we saw an item that might be of use to our members and others in our industry. It's the "Upland Briar Pants with Tick Cuff" from the L.L. Bean catalog. We heard from foresters who swear by them because the tick cuff keeps the deer ticks out while in the woods. Plus they're abrasion and wind resistant, and the water-resistant coating helps keep you dry. With lyme disease being an issue for all of us who spend time in the woods, we wanted to pass this along.

Lessons from Losses

To help TPA members avoid accidents resulting in injury or damage to property, *The Timber Bulletin*, in association with Lumbermen's Underwriting Alliance, will publish details of actual incidents and what can be done to avoid such occurrences in the future. By sharing this information, TPA and LUA hope to make our industry as safe as possible.

Incident: A fire destroyed a 1999 feller buncher. Smoke was first noted coming from the rear floor area of the cab. The operator immediately shut down this equipment and the fire appeared to be in the engine compartment (manifold side) next to the operator cab. Smoke entered the cab through the electrical wire pathway. Addressing the fire with the on-board 10 lb. extinguisher and by using the fire port hole in the side panel next to the cab appeared to make little headway in controlling this fire. The fire was

quickly getting stronger and the operator used the second extinguisher from the opposite side over the engine, but could not control the fire. The operator rushed to get help from the other worker on site and by the time they could respond again with a skidder, extra extinguishers, etc., it was too late. The only thing they could do is stop the spread of fire to the surrounding forest. No injuries occurred.

The day of this occurrence the weather was abnormally warm for the winter months; temperatures reached 35 degrees with low humidity, and it was sunny and no wind.

The logging job site was located in a remote area approximately 20 miles from the nearest town. The timber at this job site included jack pine, spruce, balsam and mixed hardwood.

Maintenance and housekeeping

would be rated as good. Most maintenance needs are completed in-house by the operator with the exception of large scale maintenance which is handled by the appropriate equipment dealer. Safety features including the electrical disconnect, fire extinguishers, engine compartment shielding, fire portholes, enclosed cab, escape windows, employee training, etc., were all were available and functional. In addition, this operation does install CB radio communication systems in select equipment (including feller bunchers) and most operators have cell phones.

No immediate maintenance problems were needed or completed prior to this fire emergency. This equipment was last power-washed in the fall before freeze-up. The front screen and the engine side panel next to the cab was opened, inspected and cleaned two to three days prior.

The operator for this machine is considered fully trained in operation and maintenance. The owner's manual is available. He has operated logging mobile equipment for over eight years with this operation and this particular piece of equipment for four years.

Due to the suddenness of this fire it is uncertain what failed. The majority of hydraulic hoses are covered with Kevlar hose wrap and no maintenance problems appeared to exist (electrical, etc.). As far as problems, these machines are known to have some housekeeping issues, do operate on the warm side, and the raceway between the engine compartment and cab is nearly impossible to inspect and clean. Side shields need quick opening latches and the hood top needs shields to prevent debris from entering the engine area near the hydraulic reservoir. Here are some other factors that may help reduce the seriousness of a mobile equipment loss with this type of equipment:

- Frequency of cleaning of the front screen especially in dirty timber conditions.
- Frequency of inspection of engine area between cab and engine compartment. (Housekeeping, hydraulic hose and electrical wiring damage, etc.)
- Use the electrical disconnect in emergency situations.
- Protection of the hot turbo with a Kevlar wrap.
- Deflector shield to prevent debris from the engine fan from contacting the hot turbo.
- Use of a reversing fan on the engine.

LUA Suggested Preventative Measures Include:

1. Frequent operator self-inspections for housekeeping and maintenance, especially in dirty timber.
2. Always shut down the electrical disconnect (master switch) on your mobile equipment in an emergency situation. Refresher training for all employees needs to be reviewed regularly.
3. Maintain all side panels on mobile equipment with quick opening fasteners. Fast access is very important in an emergency.

(continued on page 19)

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Early Loggers in Minnesota

by J. C. Ryan



First-hand recollections by storyteller "Buzz" Ryan of the loggers, loaders, swampers, wood bulchers and bull cooks who ruled the woods in the heyday of the pioneer lumberjacks with dozens of historical photographs.

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TPA Logger and SFI Partner with Habitat for Humanity

Cook – What started as a well managed Tree Farm will soon become dozens of 4' x 8' sheets of oriented strand board, thanks in part to TPA logger Cliff Shermer. It's part of a unique effort by the Minnesota Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Implementation Committee to build a Habitat for Humanity home.

Later this year, Hibbing's Kelli Ritz and her daughter will move into their own new home, a home that will be built in partnership with Minnesota SFI program volunteers using SFI-certified materials from Minnesota forest products companies.

The wood for the Habitat for Humanity project came from the Tree Farm of Minnesota Sen. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook), which he donated. Harvesting was done by Cliff Shermer Logging, and the wood was then hauled to the Ainsworth Engineered mill in Cook, where they will soon be made into OSB, compliments of Ainsworth.

As part of the renewable nature of the project, Sen. Bakk's harvested land will be replanted this spring, using seedlings donated by the University of Minnesota.

"I'm happy to donate these raw materials because Habitat for Humanity and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative are such outstanding organizations," said Sen. Bakk. "This partnership with SFI is the first of its kind in the United States to ensure a Habitat home is built using forest products harvested via measures that promote sustainability – from the OSB that Ainsworth is making, to the final piece of trim that will complete the house."

Shermer donated his time and expenses, including hauling his equipment to the harvest site.

"I'm happy to help a great cause," Shermer said. "It's an honor to work with Habitat for Humanity on a project that helps



TPA Logger Cliff Shermer (L) with his brother, Jim Shermer, who operates the feller buncher at the harvest site near Cook.

good people. Everyone on this project, from Senator Bakk to the folks at Ainsworth to the folks at SFI and Habitat for Humanity have been great to work with."

The OSB will be stored at Ainsworth until spring, when the

material will be hauled to the home site in Hibbing. SFI and other volunteers will build a one-story, 1,100-square-foot home using additional materials donated by Louisiana Pacific, Marvin Windows and other Minnesota SFI program



Kelli Ritz of Hibbing will live in the home built with OSB from Ainsworth's Cook mill. Ritz is interviewed by one of the seven news crews to cover the event.



Shermer Logging's John Deere 653E feller buncher kicks up snow as it harvests aspen for the Habitat for Humanity Project.

Humanity is a great believer in the importance of promoting sustainability."

The project attracted media from throughout the region, including two TV news crews and five newspapers. The story was also picked up by national news websites like forbes.com, Yahoo Business, and pr-inside.com.



Sen. Bakk and his dad, Mel, watch the harvest of his trees. Senator Bakk originally purchased three 40-acre tracts near Cook for \$400. The timber for the project came from one of those tracts.

participants.

Other Minnesota forest products companies are also contributing, in the form of cash donations to help fund the Habitat for Humanity project. Those companies are Boise, Inc.; Forest Capital Partners, LLC; NewPage Corporation; Sappi Fine Paper North America; UPM, Blandin Paper Mill; and Verso Paper, Sartell Mill.

"SFI is proud to be a partner in this project and support the work of the Minnesota SFI Implementation committee on this incredibly important project," said SFI President and CEO Kathy Abusow. "This is another example of how our 37 implementation committees across North America are making real, positive differences, not just at the forest management level but also at the community level."

Nathan Thompson, executive director of the North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity, said his organization is proud and grateful to be the first Habitat organization in the country to team up with a state SFI committee.

"We're appreciative of all volunteers who put so much time and effort into building affordable homes with deserving families, but it's especially gratifying to have the people who supply home building materials taking on a project for us," said Thompson. "Like SFI, Habitat for

(continued from page 17)

4. Review the hood tops to prevent debris from entering the engine compartment. This should include blocking of all openings or problem areas (rear hood, canopy openings, etc.).
5. Train employees on proper use of fire extinguishers in an emergency situation. Utilize the extinguisher hose to direct the flow to the base of the fire and not waste the extinguisher in a panic situation.
6. Complete refresher employee training for proper operation, service, emergency response etc.

- for new and existing employees. Weekly tool box safety meetings work well in reviewing all equipment. Cross training all employees is very beneficial.
7. Install an on-board fixed self-suppression system on all mobile equipment. Additional protection is always very beneficial in a fire emergency situation. Always follow the owner's manual maintenance required for regular maintenance and self inspection is crucial to the performance of this protection.

TPA's Drug and Alcohol Testing Program Helps Members

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has mandated that all logging and timber industry employers who maintain trucks that are covered by the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration (FMCSA) and have drivers who must have a Commercial Drivers License (CDL) are to maintain alcohol and drug-free workplaces. By complying with governmental regulations and proactively addressing the issue of substance abuse, logging and timber employers help ensure success for their commercial enterprises and increase the level of safety for all travelers nationwide.

To assist members in not only complying with federal regulations, but also in helping keep our roadways as safe as possible, TPA offers a drug and alcohol testing program to its members. For a one-time enrollment fee of \$115 plus \$50 per driver/per year, TPA member companies can enroll in the program. Thereafter when IHSN (a third-party program administrator) selects an employee for random testing, the random tests are completed at no charge to the employer. However, charges for pre-employment and other non-random tests are paid by the employer.

The fines for not having a drug and alcohol testing program have been as high as \$15,000. Companies can be cited during a DOT audit, or on a roadside compliance check.

According to figures compiled by MLEP, over the past five years the most common violations by logging companies that resulted in fines were for "failing to implement a random drug/alcohol testing program," and for "using a driver before receiving a pre-employment test result." Fines levied to logging companies for these infractions over this five year period totaled more than \$156,000.

In the TPA program, once an employer is notified that one of its drivers has been randomly selected for testing, the driver will be directed to an approved medical clinic to conduct the test. Health



care professionals at the clinic will then forward the sample to the Medtox Laboratories for analysis.

All urine specimens are analyzed for the following drugs: marijuana (THC metabolite), cocaine, amphetamines and includes methamphetamines, opiates (including heroin), and phencyclidine (PCP).

Employers are required to keep detailed records of their alcohol misuse prevention programs. The FMCSA will conduct inspections or audits of employers' programs. Additionally, selected employers

will have to prepare annual calendar year summary reports for the FMCSA. These reports will be used to help monitor compliance and enforcement of the rules, as well as to provide data on the extent of alcohol misuse and the need for any future program and regulatory changes.

Test results and other confidential information may be released only to the employer and the substance abuse professional. Any other release of this information is only with the

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TPA Board of Directors Meets



TPA President Tom McCabe calls to order the meeting of TPA's Board of Directors in December at Wendigo Lodge near Grand Rapids. At the meeting, board members received reports on the activities of the Transportation, Audit, Insurance, and Public Relations committees, as well as reviewed financial statements, and discussed potential legislative activities at all levels of government for 2008.

On the Markets

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

Recent Timber Sales Average prices, as reported by each agency

Note: On state sales, the DNR does not calculate price per cord on individual auctions. Price per cord information on these sales is done by TPA staff. This average is for "trembling aspen" and "aspen species" combined

DNR – Baudette Area

Species	Avg. Price
Aspen	\$22.28

Beltrami County

Species	Avg. Price
Aspen pulpwood	\$33.87
Hardwood pulpwood	\$18.51
Balsam pulpwood	\$30.12

Data provided by Beltrami County combined the oral and sealed bid portions. Of the 28 tracts on this auction, two went unsold and two sold for appraised value. Of the other 24 tracts that sold, the minimum bid-up was 44%.

Beltrami County reports that the average price for aspen in 2007 was \$32.74 per cord.

DNR – Orr & Tower Areas

Species	Avg. Price
Aspen	\$24.11

DNR – Littlefork Area

Species	Avg. Price
Aspen	\$26.94

DNR – Deer River Area

Species	Avg. Price
Aspen	\$28.41

DNR – Warroad Area

Species	Avg. Price
Aspen	\$22.26

St. Louis County December 13 – Sealed Bids

Species	Avg. Price
Aspen pulpwood	\$30.72
Balsam pulpwood	\$19.64
Black spruce pulpwood	\$25.73
Birch pulpwood	\$ 8.63
Red Maple pulpwood	\$ 7.87

St. Louis County

Species	Avg. Price
Aspen pulpwood	\$27.76
Balsam pulpwood	\$16.70
Jack Pine pulpwood	\$25.55
Birch pulpwood	\$ 8.98

DNR – Blackduck Area

Species	Avg. Price
Aspen	\$30.60

DNR – Hibbing Area

Species	Avg. Price
Aspen	\$27.86

"Aspen" also includes 150 cords of "targettooth aspen."

Cass County

Species	Avg. Price
Aspen	\$30.12
Pine pulp	\$36.03
Birch	\$20.94
Red Oak	\$24.39

Koochiching County

Species	Avg. Price
Aspen pulpwood	\$32.88
Spruce P&B	\$19.18
Balsam P&B	\$19.20
Jackpine P&B	\$40.73
Tamarack P&B	\$ 6.55

DNR – Brainerd & Little Falls Areas

Species	Avg. Price
Aspen	\$25.57

DNR – Sandstone Area

Species	Avg. Price
Aspen	\$30.66

Cass County

Species	Avg. Price
Aspen	\$28.66
Birch	\$19.79
Red Oak	\$21.86
Paper Birch	\$17.38
Maple	\$15.71

DNR Offers 668,000 Cords in First Two Quarters of FY '08

In numbers released by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the DNR says it offered 668,514 cords from July 1 through December 31 of 2007.

Of that total, 350,589 cords were reoffers of forfeited sales and 317,925 cords are from the regular timber sales plan for fiscal year 2008, which runs through June 30 of this year.

The DNR plans to offer between 761,822 and 842,009 cords in FY '08. The midpoint between those numbers is 801,916 cords. Wood reoffered from forfeited sales is over and above this volume, for a total volume of roughly 1.2 million cords of wood.

Gov. Pawlenty has accepted the recommendation of the Governor's Task Force on the Competitiveness of the Primary Forest Products Industry to increase the annual harvest on state lands to 1 million cords. DNR Director of Forestry Dave Epperly says the agency is working toward that goal.

All Timber Relief Forfeitures Re-offered by Deadline

According to the DNR, all of the wood turned back under the last year's Timber Relief Payment Legislation has been reoffered.

According to the legislation, all forfeited wood had to be reoffered by January 31, 2008. In figures released by the DNR, 288 permits were turned back under the plan. Of that, 258 permits sold at auction. The other 30 permits went unsold and will be again re-offered before June of this year.

Ainsworth Announces Curtailments at Three OSB Mills, including Cook

In January, Ainsworth Engineered announced curtailments at its mills in Grand Prairie, Alberta, 100 Mile

House, BC, and at the mill in Cook. The company cited reduced customer demand for the curtailments. In Cook, log deliveries were continuing during the closure, which the company said would last at least two weeks. The Cook mill began its downtime in January, while the Canadian mills were shutting down during February.

Housing Starts See Largest Decline in More than 25 Years

In figures for 2007 released by the Census Bureau, housing starts saw the largest year-to-year decline since 1980. Last year, housing starts totaled 1.354 million units in the U.S., down 24.8% from the 2006 total of 1.8 million starts.

In addition, Census Bureau figures show that residential construction spending for 2007 was \$524.1 billion, down 18.3% from 2006.

In monthly figures, December's housing start figures from the Census Bureau showed a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.006 million, down 14.2% from November. Construction spending in the U.S. fell in December 1.1% from the previous month.

U.S. GDP Growth at 0.6% during Fourth Quarter

The U.S. economy grew at an annualized pace of 0.6% during the fourth quarter, down from a 4.9% rate of growth during the third quarter, according to the Commerce Department. Analysts said the slowdown, greater than what they had expected, could add pressure for Federal Reserve Board policymakers to cut key interest rates today, January 30, 2008.

U.S. Consumer Confidence Falls in January

The Conference Board's Index of Consumer Confidence fell in January to a reading of 87.9, from December's upwardly revised reading of 90.6. The index averaged 103.2 in 2007. Energy costs and the effects of the housing slump were

cited by analysts as key factors in the downturn.

Home Builders Assn. Says Housing Upturn to Start in Second Half of '08

According to the chief economist for the National Association of Home Builders, the housing industry will begin its recovery in the second half of 2008.

However, NAHB Chief Economist David Seiders said this forecast is based on several assumptions: that the economy avoids recession, that Congress passes key reforms to address the subprime lending crisis, and that the central bank remains ready to step in if needed to keep the economy moving forward. Seiders is also forecasting slow economic growth next year in 2008.

Noting that NAHB's Housing Market Index, which predicts demand for new single-family home sales, has stabilized at low levels during the past three months, Seiders said that this is an indication that "we are now approaching the bottom of home sales activity, and we anticipate a recovery in sales beginning in the second quarter of 2008."

Getting sales stabilized is the key to turning around housing production. Housing starts peaked in the first quarter of 2006, and Seiders expects starts to bottom out in the second quarter of 2008,

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driver's written consent. If a driver initiates a grievance, hearing, lawsuit, or other action as a result of a violation of these rules, the employer may release relevant information to the decision maker.

Even Drivers with Farm Plates Need to Be Enrolled

Occasionally, those who drive trucks with farm plates will think that as a result they don't need to be enrolled in a drug and alcohol program or have a CDL. This is not the case. According to MnDOT, any logger that is harvesting timber, even with farm plates, still needs to have a CDL and be in a drug and alcohol program. This is

registering a 55 percent decline from peak-to-trough activity.

"As sales begin to improve, this will whittle down excess inventory, allowing the production of new homes to begin moving forward in the latter half of 2008," he said.

"We are in a down time, and many markets that overheated during 2003-2005 such as Las Vegas, Phoenix and Miami are undergoing a natural correction," added Jerry Howard, executive vice president and CEO of NAHB. "But all housing is local, and the reason we think that the market will stabilize and come back is because many smaller markets that did not experience overheating are still performing at a relatively healthy level. If you balance those markets against those that are undergoing major corrections, we see a solid recovery down the road."

Another reason that Howard cited for optimism looking ahead is a new report from Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies, which found that even with the large inventory of unsold homes on the market today, the long term demand for conventional housing units will run at a strong clip of 1.82 million per year between 2008 and 2014.

The Harvard report concluded: "Do not mistake short-term reactions to the housing slowdown as a harbinger of things to come for the long term. On the strength of demographically-driven demand for housing, the market will bounce back from its currently suppressed levels."

also true for those who are leasing the land they're harvesting. If you have any questions about any of these issues surrounding drug and alcohol testing or compliance with state or federal regulations, please call the TPA office and we'll assist you in getting the information you need to stay legal.

Disclaimer

This article is intended to provide general information related to the Federal Dept. of Transportation regulations on Drug and Alcohol Testing in the Workplace. The content of this article should not be construed as legal advice or opinion.

LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

"Care Given to Old Jacks"

by J. C. Ryan

This story is reprinted from an earlier *Timber Bulletin*—one of the first of "Buzz" Ryan's ever-popular contributions to these pages. The *Bulletin* will continue to reprint selected stories from the memories he recorded for us.—*Editor*



I spent my childhood in the Herring area, and grew up with the logging industry. I have known most of the big and near big logging companies and many of the smaller jobbers that worked for the larger firms.

One of my pet peeves is to hear people today sound off about the terrible living conditions of the old-time lumberjack. There seems to be a tendency to picture old-time logging companies and loggers as exploiters of labor that had little thought or feeling towards the lumberjack other than to work him 10-12 hours daily, give him the poorest housing, feed him the worst food, give him meager pay and send him off to the poorhouse to die when he was old. *This was far from the truth!*

Most companies and independent loggers took very good care of their workers and older men. They and their foremen had a following of jacks that worked for them year after year, and they made a special effort to help and keep their working force.

Men who worked many years for a company often were kept on the payroll long after they were able to produce, and were paid as long as they were able to walk to the table to eat.

It was not uncommon to see several old jacks working around camp—piling, splitting wood, fixing lanterns and doing minor chores while they recuperated from illness or injury or were just found to work in the woods.

I remember going to a Crookston Lumber Co. camp, where George Brown was foreman, and seeing 12 old jacks just able to hobble to the table. Only when they couldn't walk to the table were they taken from the camps.

Many older jacks were kept in a camp watchmen or were allowed to take care of a few head of horses during the summer months when the camps were not in operation.

They were given jobs that they were capable of such as watching railroad crossings, haying hills on the ice roads and working as night watchmen.

Some companies set up shacks and furnished food for their old-timers. Dur-

ing slack times, I have seen lumbermen stop on the street and pick up several old-timers and take them to the camps to rest and be fed. One could always stop at a camp and stay several days even if the camp was not hiring at the time. Very few old lumberjacks went to the poor house or became recipients of public care.

In 1946, there were about 30,000 men working in lumber camps in Keweenaw County; there were only five old men in the county poorhouse.

In some smaller towns, companies set up small hospitals where their men could go if hurt or sick and stay until they were able to return to camp. During the peak of logging days, many jacks had hospital tickets they bought from the "Lumberjack's Sister of St. Mary's Hospital" in Duluth; and they could go there if sick or disabled. The companies often paid for these hospital tickets.

Much has been said about the poor food that was given the jacks. This was not true. While I worked as a log inspector in 1922, I ate and stayed at more than 70 camps that winter, and with the exception of fresh fruit and milk, the food was as good as or better than food served in leading hotels. The best food available under the conditions was always served, and the camp foremen were always looking for the best cooks. They knew that a well-fed crew was a happy crew and put out the best work. It was only in a few of the smaller jobber camps that one occasionally found poor food.

It was true that no inside toilets or

shower baths were found in the camps, but very few homes in the small towns had these facilities during the early 1900s. However, most camps had a small building where men could wash their clothes and "boil-up" to get rid of lice. The men themselves did a good job of judging. If a man came to camp that they thought might bring lice, they insisted that he "boil-up" before sleeping in the bunkhouse. There was always plenty of soap and hot water available.

The lumberjack was a happy, clean living individual in camp. This was not true when he went to town to blow his stake. He then slept in "dumpy hotels" or boarding houses and lived under pretty tough conditions until his stake was gone. Then he was ready to return to camp. His camp foreman or company man would rescue him from the "altures," get him back to camp and give him a few days to get back into shape for work. I have seen these men stay in camp up to two weeks before they were able to go back to work after blowing a big stake.

There were no relief mills during the heyday of the logging industry and it was not until the late 1920s and early 1930s that transient and W.P.A. camps were set up to take care of these men. This was after most camps had closed and companies had gone out of the logging business. During the peak days of the logging industry, it was the companies and loggers that looked after their workers. If an industry took as good care of its workers as the logging industry did, there would be few complaints.



Classifieds

As a service, the Timber Bulletin offers free classified ads of up to 85 words to all MTPA members and associate members.

USED EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

FOR SALE

1992 Siiro Delimber Slasher....\$6,500
 1984 667 Clark Grapple
 Skidder.....\$20,000
 453 Detroit Power Unit\$3,000
 12,000 gallon fuel tank – best offer
 Contact: 218-376-4638

EXCESS EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

John Deere with ProPac Delimber
 5 Aluminum Log Bunks with
 end gates
 60" Lemco Slasher
 2002 John Deere 648G3 PC
 Call: 218-348-7904 for details

USED EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

FOR SALE

CABLE SKIDDERS
 1970 JD 440A.....10,500
 1969 TF C4P.O.R.
 TJ 240.....P.O.R.
 TJ 350.....P.O.R.
GRAPPLE SKIDDERS
 1991 TJ 450B, Cummins eng...18,000
 1985 JD 548D, rebuilt trans.....21,000
 1996 JD 548G.....45,000
 1998 JD 648GII, S.F.,
 rebuilt tran.....56,000
 380 TJ.....8,500
 2004 TJ 560D, D.F.
 ECab, A/C, new tires.....115,000
CRAWLERS
 1988 JD 450G.....21,000
 1999 Daewoo DD801, 6-way blade
 LGP, EROPS, low hrs.....33,000
 1978 CAT D3 w/D3B
 update16,500
 1977 D6D LGP27,000

1987 D4H LGP, 6-way blade,
 encl. cab27,000
KNUCKLE BOOM LOADERS
 2000 170A SERCO on S.P. Carrier
 w/60" HanFab slasher.....69,000
 1993 Serco 7000 on
 1995 Stalite, 43'.....16,000
 1992 Barko 160A on 1986
 Freightliner w/60"
 Siiro slasher25,000
 1987 Prentice 210C, 6 cyl
 JD slasher pkg.
 mounted on truck27,000
 1987 XL 175 Husky,
 mounted on truck17,500
EXCAVATORS
 1996 Yanmar B6U mini
 excavator13,750
 1999 Fiat Allis FX 140,
 low hrs., aux. hydr.P.O.R.
WHEEL LOADERS
 410 JD backhoe, cab13,000
 1981 JD 644C25,000
TRUCKS
 1978 GMC 2-ton w/hydr. hoist,
 flatbed dump4,500
DELIMBERS
 2000 JD 200LCW w/Pro
 Pac 45385,000
 1984 JD 690B w/boom
 delimber.....30,000
 Siiro delimber/slasher.....7,000
**FELLER-BUNCHERS
 AND SHEARS**
 775A Barko, sawhead.....P.O.R.
 1988 910 Cat, 17" shearhead,
 rebuilt trans.....32,000
 1998 653E JD wide pads,
 w/20" cameco sawhead60,000
 1984 411B Hydro-Ax.....15,000
 1987 411B Hydro-Ax.....20,000
 1986 511B Hydro-Ax, 6 BT
 Cummins27,000
 1994 511E Hydro-Ax,
 20" Koehring57,000
 1993 611E 22" sawhead.....35,000
 1993 JD 590D w/18"
 Roto saw27,000
 1976 JD 544B17,000

1976 JD 544, 20" shear.....21,000
 1993 Risley Black Magic
 w/Risley sawhead65,000
MISCELLANEOUS
 1999 Samsung SE130LCM-3,
 S/N DCY0058, 4 roller
 2000 RP Fabtec.....55,000
 1991 853 Bobcat, w/forks
 and broom8,500
 1999 MD2810 ASV Posi-track
 skidsteer, rubber tracks21,000
 1979 731 Bobcat skidsteer
 loader6,700
 60" slasher w/power unit.....14,500
 60" Siiro slasher8,500
 60" Lemco slasher.....8,000
 New 60" and 72" Hanfab
 slashers.....P.O.R.
 1995 546 Valmet forwarder,
 6-wheel.....P.O.R.
 Gafner Iron Mule Prehailer ...12,000

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