

LEON PARENT SEP. 5, 1960

1990.20.40/1990.20.41

Keywords

Logging

Mills

Fires

WWI

Wages

Alexander

Born in 1891 in Saginaw Co.

Father was French Canadian. mother from Michigan.

Remembers when McKinley was assassinated, was 10 yrs old.

Married 1924. wife's maiden name Alexander. namesake of Alexander Rd.

Moved to Gaylord in 1909.

1909-43 worked as a cook at logging camps. \$1 a day. 13-hr days. First worked south of Waters. later hired by Chris Johnson to work at a place called Fairbanks, 14 miles east of Gaylord. Cooked for 65 men

First ride in an automobile at 20 yrs old. First car owned was a 1917 Ford. Cars only went about 15-20 mph at the time. not much faster than the horses.

Drafted for World War I at 26 yrs old. Member of the 85th Division, 840th Infantry. Did not see action; his company was replaced. Went to New York City for four days, went to France from there, took 17 days to sail there.

Army found out he was a cook. He hadn't registered as a cook and was reluctant to do it, but wound up doing it anyway.

Fights at the logging camps were not too common, however one resulted in death. A man named McIntyre (sp?) killed an old chore boy who attacked him. Was cleared presumably because he was defending himself.

Jobs at logging camp:

Sawyer – cut down trees, then cut them into logs

Swamper – trimmed limbs off logs

Teamster – skidded the logs, loaded logs with a chain gang

Chore boys

Cooks

Wages (est.)

Worked in the woods - \$26/month

Teamster - \$28/month

Loader - \$30/month

Parent figures that as a cook he made double than that of the common laborers.

Chief trees and their principle uses:

Maple – flooring

Hemlock – lumber

Rosewood – lumber

Beech – lumber, a lot made into clothespins

Logs were processed at Grayling when he first started, later they were processed at the Bachelor Timber Company in Saginaw.

Terrible fire on July 11, 1911 that burned two mills in Waters and several logging camps.

Keywords

Leon Parent

History of Guthrie Lake Area

Leon Parent

First started working with a 'chain gang' loading logs
Chain gang a line of men who loaded lumber by hand onto flat cars
A few years later they had a steam loader replace manual loading
Were using trucks to move logs to mill as early as 1928
Next came tractors to move the logs

History of Guthrie Lake Area

[Repeat of 1990.20.34]

History of Guthrie Lake Area / Early Pioneer Recollections

~~1990.20.34~~

1990.26.72

1990.2034

Keywords

Brief History of Guthrie Lake

Badger Frank Smith

Meaning of Otsego

Frank Guthrie

Otsego Lumber Camp

Alfred B.R. Herd

Brief History of Guthrie Lake

Merton established cut near lake to harvest pine and hardwood trees in 1883

Logs sailed down outlet to lake where they were directed into the mills

Pike used to come up AuSable by thousands until logging took over

Redhead bought Powell's Mill and began a shingling business for Tom Judge

Badger Frank Smith

Smith came to Guthrie Lake in 1881

Wild passenger pigeons nested nearby in thousands, enough to break trees with their nests' weight

Smith, Kelley and Dwight primary loggers of that time

When whiskey ran out, they drank Hickley's Bone Ligament for its alcoholic content

Little Frenchman named Baptiste called "heeve-ho" for loggers

Rough men on Otsego Lake, rough rivalry between them and Guthrie Lake

The respectable women spied on the men with binoculars and spyglasses

Lawmen only carried guns on election day

Meaning of Otsego

James Gilbert, owner of Guthrie Lake Preserve, donated information

Information compiled by Rosanna Bag: librarian of Huntington Memorial Library

"Rock of Friendly Meeting" literally translation of Otsego

Otsego Rock (near the lake) where Mohawk Indians gathered in the early days

Sego - well known salutation for being still alive or being well

Otsego likely derived from confusion over map name in 1700s

Frank Guthrie

Frank lived in late 1800s, known as a cattle buyer and nice fellow

Accused of hitting a New York prospector

Ran around and lived in dugout near Guthrie lake

Lived on hunting and trapping local animals

Otsego Lumber Camp

Otsego Lumber Camp ran 14 camps in 1800s

80 to 100 men per camp, worked for \$16 a day, 10 to 12 hours a day

Ate lots of meat to the point the company couldn't keep up

Company hired professional hunters to find deer for the men

20 to 30 deer shot a day but always more the next day

Ed Warner the most successful hunter for company at 1,000 deer, lots of stories

Alfred B.R. Herd

Article concerning him and early history of Elmira

[See 1990.20.43]