

STUMP TALK

by Charles E. Tomlinson

Without Bill

When it was time for the meeting to begin, there were a few moments of awkwardness, as if no one really wanted to take Bill's place as Chairman. Bob Nonnemacher, the storehouse of wisdom for Board activities, came forward and introduced Phillip Sasnett, the vice chairman, as the successor Chairman of the Board.

Phillip made a few references to Bill's leadership and past efforts on behalf of his profession and this Board, and then read the poem, *Plant a Tree* by Lucy Larcom.

Bill would have been as touched as everyone else who was in the room.

The meeting continued and, as item after item was addressed, Bill was mentioned in passing. In informal discussions, personal asides, and references to the business at hand, Bill was very much a part of the meeting.

He was mentioned as a mentor, as a role model for younger foresters, as a major contributor, usually anonymous, to every facet of life that he felt was important. His vision for Wetumpka, his work for his church, the pride he had in his family and their accomplishments, and the many contributions he made to his profession were casually discussed by the Board as they worked through the agenda for the meeting. Bill would have been embarrassed by the accolades, but they were not formally made, not done in any ritual manner, they were just comments about an uncommon man by some who had gotten to know him.

In considering the writing of an obituary about Bill, it occurred to me that this Board meeting was probably the best tribute that could be paid to any man. To be remembered by one's peers with affection, admiration, and a true sense of loss is the aim of all of us, but the accomplishment of this goal is never enjoyed by those who receive it, for it requires their death. Bill Sablie may not know, but we do.

The Registered FORESTER

Volume 26, #4 Fall, 1996



Plant a Tree

Lucy Larcom
(from *One Hundred and One Famous Poems*)

He who plants a tree
Plants a hope,
Rootlets up through fibres blindly grope;
Leaves unfold into horizons free.
So man's life must climb
From the clods of time
Unto heavens sublime.
Canst thou prophesy, thou little tree,
What the glory of thy boughs shall be?

He who plants a tree
Plants a joy;
Plants a comfort that will never cloy;
Every day a fresh reality,
Beautiful and strong,
To whose shelter throng
Creatures blithe with song.
If thou couldst but know, thou happy tree,
Of the bliss that shall inhabit thee.

He who plants a tree,—
He plants peace.
Under its green curtains jargons cease.
Leaf and zephyr murmur soothingly;
Shadows soft with sleep
Down tired eyelids creep,
Balm of slumber deep.
Never hast thou dreamed, thou blessed tree,
Of the benediction thou shalt be.

He who plants a tree,—
He plants youth;
Vigor won for centuries in sooth;
Life of time, that hints eternity!
Boughs their strength uprear:
New shoots, every year,
On old growths appear;
Thou shalt teach the ages, sturdy tree,
Youth of soul is immortality.

He who plants a tree,—
He plants love,
Tents of coolness spreading out above
Wayfarers he may not live to see.
Gifts that grow are best;
Hands that bless are blest;
Plant! life does the rest!
Heaven and earth help him who plants a tree,
And his work its own reward shall be.



BOB NONNEMACHER

Bob started his forestry career by graduating from Penn State College in 1941 and taking a temporary job with the USFS in Oregon cruising timber on Mt. Hood. After the job was over he returned to Pennsylvania and worked for Bethlehem Steel Corporation until after Pearl Harbor when he volunteered to join an Army Special Services Regiment. While at Camp Clayborne for 5 weeks of basic training, Bob and two other foresters were recruited into the 797 Forest Engineers Company.

After a few weeks at Camp Anzo, in California, waiting for a ship to replace the one that was sunk on its way to pick them up, Bob's Company shipped out on a single troop ship, un-escorted across the Pacific to Fremantle, Australia where they were joined by two more troop ships, a British cruiser and 2 destroyers for the trip into Bombay, India. As they approached the port at Bombay, the troop ships were turned around while the warships steamed ahead to sink a Japanese submarine that was

continued

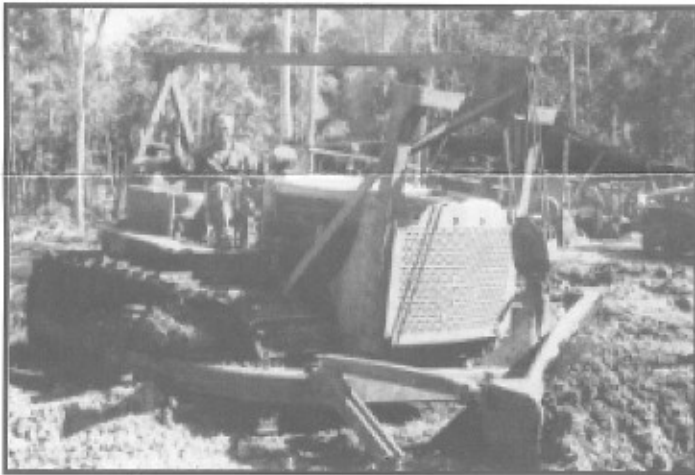
Bob Nonnemacher, continued

lying in wait near the mouth of the harbor. After a long and arduous trip by train and boat across India, the 797th arrived in Burma, where they unpacked the Corinth circular sawmill to begin cutting timbers for the construction of the "Stillwell Road". As is common in the army, and particularly in a place as far away as Burma, nothing seemed to fit. The major problem was that the trees were too big for the equipment. The sawmill had to knaw away at the sides of the logs until they were small enough to saw and the small D4 tractors sent to skid logs were unable to move the huge trees. Bob tells of General Stillwell storming into camp demanding his lumber and discovering the snafu. Three days later they had 2 D8 tractors, courtesy of the road building engineers, began to make lumber in earnest and Bob Nonnemacher began his first procurement job, since he was responsible for logging the mill.

In spite of the monsoons which turned the operations into a huge mud bog, the fact that they were moved frequently in order to keep up with the front lines, where the timbers were needed for bridges, the debilitating heat and insects, and the killer schedule of 24 hour operation of the sawmill (the logging crew had guard duty at night to protect the sawmill), the 797 Forest Engineers ran the only sawmill in



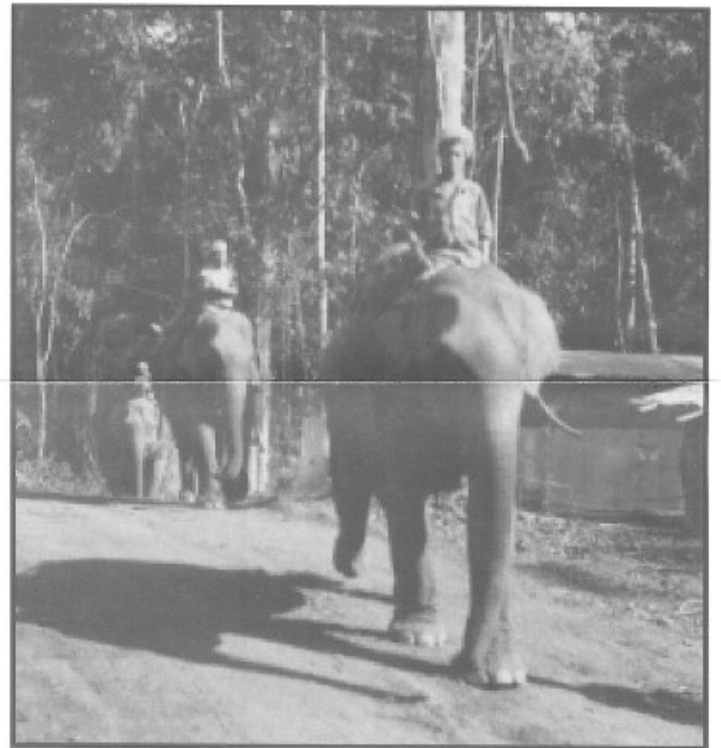
The "Corinth" sawmill



Moving mud



Bucking in the mud



Contract loggers

Burma for over three years! Bob's stories of this time are similar in some ways to the "war stories" of every procurement man on the planet, but sub-contractors using elephants for logging, protecting inventory with MIs, and bridge beds made of solid teak may be a little unique. The efforts of Bob and his cohorts were so successful and lumber so needed, that the Army tried to keep them in Burma indefinitely, even though the war was over, but, using "Yankee" ingenuity, Bob managed to get home, get out of the Army, and begin life as a civilian.

First stop was Duke, where a MF was the goal. After getting set up to start school in the fall of 1946, Bob heard of a summer job cruising timber for International Paper Company in Texas and signed on. He made it to New Orleans, was diverted to Mississippi and began a career that cancelled his plans for graduate school, found him a home in Canton, Mississippi for 18 years, and a wife Lois, and twins. After procurement in Burma, IP was a snap, and Bob began the steady rise



Typical load of logs

through IP Company that would take him to Camden, Arkansas as Area Superintendent, to Mobile as Chief Forester for the Southern Kraft Division, to Natchez, Mississippi as Regional Manager and eventually to Mobile as the Manger of Woodlands for the Southern Kraft Division of IP.

Bob retired from International Paper Company in 1981, but has been actively engaged in special projects for IP, teaching a class at Auburn University, and serving his second term on the Board of Registration for Foresters. After the death of his wife, Bob recently moved from Mobile to a farm near Jackson, Mississippi where he is near his son and grandchildren. Still active in his profession and an avid golfer, Bob's latchkey is always out for friends, old and new.

HISTORY OF PRESENT-DAY LAND MEASUREMENTS

(Source: Eric Sloane's "America")

Not long ago an important job in every American town was that of the 'fence-viewer'. There is nothing for fence-viewers to do today, yet many towns still elect them and pay them for their office. They decided the necessity and the sufficiency of all fences in their neighborhood. They settled disputes between landowners, and they were liable (by fine) for the neglect of fences within their jurisdiction.

The fence-viewer also had his deputies and assistants, two of which carried a Gunter's Chain for measuring acreage and fence mileage. A Gunter's Chain is a linked-measuring-device, sixty six (66) feet long, including handles at both ends. It was invented in 1620 by Edmund Gunter, an English mathematician. All road and land measurements since his day were shown in maps as "chains" or divisions of the 'chain'.

To this day, the number sixty-six or derivatives of that number occur frequently in historical research and in real-estate records. It may be the measurement of a city block (usually three (3) chains to a block and one (1) to a street), the distance between telephone poles (one (1) chain and two (2) chains apart), the width of a canal (one (1) chain), or the width of a highway grant (one (1) chain, with the roadbed in the middle). The early "Broad Ways" were of such

dimensions as the Duke of Gloucester Street in Williamsburg, Virginia, laid out in 1699 as a 'great noble street of six (6) poles' or one and a half (1 1/2) chains. The standard length of a rail or section of a rail fence was eleven (11) feet, so that a fence-viewer could walk along a fence, and by apportioning six (6) rails to the chain, he could tell at a glance the size of a field. If he wanted to measure out exact chain-lengths, he could use any eleven (11) foot rail as his measuring stick.

Shorter distances were measured in 'rods, also known as 'poles' or 'perches'. Why a rod should be sixteen and a half feet (16 1/2) has mystified most students. Sixteen and a half (16.5) feet happen to be just one fourth (1/4) of a chain and the rod was once known as a 'quarter chain'. Few know why a mile should be 5,280 feet long; but if you multiply a chain length by eighty (80), you will find out that $(80 \times 66) = 5,280$. Even the mystic 43,560 square feet in an acre is found to be the sum of ten (10) square chains $(66 \times 66 \times 10) = 43,560$. It soon becomes obvious that most of our present-day land measurements hark back to Gunter and his almost obsolete chain.

Contributed by Wilbur DeVall

STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR FORESTERS

MEMBERS:

H. PHILLIP SASNETT (99) CHAIRMAN
Public Information Committee

RICHARD H. "RICK" JONES (00) VICE CHAIRMAN
Examination Committee

O.M. "MIKE" BEACH SECRETARY
Violation Committee

WILLIAM ALAN "BILL" WHITING (98)
Continuing Education Committee

ROBERT M. "BOB" NONNEMACHER (97) retiring member

STAFF:

PAMELA B. SEARS - OFFICE MANAGER

CHARLES E. TOMLINSON - EDITOR

GERRILYN V. "GERRI" GRANT - ASST. ATTORNEY GENERAL

RETRACTION

It has been called to the attention of the Chairman of the Board, that the Editor has once again goofed. It seems that, in the last edition of the Registered Forester, Resource Management Service was credited with managing 15 million acres of timberland instead of the more accurate number of 1.5 million. The Editor used to work with RMS and it is considered by some that this error must be the result of a "good ol boy network" in action. Not so, since the editor plagiarized this number directly from the July/August issue of The Forestry Source, the publication of the Society of American Foresters. Anyway, we hereby reduce RMS's clout by a factor of 10.

NEW Registered Foresters

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| Hornsby, David Clark 1642
<i>Area Forester</i>
MacMillan Bloedel, Inc.
Business: P.O. Box 355
Thomasville, AL 36784
Phone: 334/636-8487
Home: 1748 Rose Drive
Thomasville, AL 36784
Phone: 334/636-2958 | Hope, Greg Truett 1645
<i>Procurement Forester</i>
Travis & Company
Business: 2201 48th St. East Apt.218
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405
Phone: 205/553-5790
Home: 2201 48th St. East Apt.218
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405
Phone: 205/553-5790 | Stringer, Russell Alan 1648
<i>Timber Buyer</i>
Sullivan Pulpwood Company
Business: P.O. Drawer 290
Fort Deposit, AL 36032
Phone: 334/227-8812
Home: Route 3, Box 314F
Greenville, AL 36037
Phone: 334/382-7576 | Boone, Michael Palmer 1651
<i>Procurement Forester</i>
Clearwater Foresters
Business: P.O. Box 1322
Alexander City, AL 35010
Phone: 334/207-1710
Home: 5330 Tallapoosa Street
Nostalsulga, AL 36866
Phone: 334/257-4707 |
| Ploetz, Robert Joseph 1643
Home: 797 Cherokee Lane
Signal Mountain, TN 37377
Phone: 423/886-3410 | Thigpen, Michael Arlon 1646
<i>Forester</i>
Sizemore & Sizemore
Business: P.O. Box 517
Tallassee, AL 36078
Phone: 334/283-3611
Home: 312 King Street Apt. 3
Tallassee, AL 36078
Phone: 334/283-8301 | Ward, Keith Brian 1649
<i>Appraiser</i>
F&W Forestry Services
Business: 3703 Summerville Rd. Suite A
Phenix City, AL 36867
Phone: 334/297-8817
Home: 1807 Springvalley Drive
Columbus, GA 31904
Phone: 706/332-9127 | Tindell, John Richard 1652
<i>Forest Technician</i>
Scott Davis Timber Company
Business: No. 1 Industrial Road
Brent, AL 35034
Phone: 205/926-4439
Home: Route 2, Box 48
Centreville, AL 35042
Phone: 205/926-6533 |
| Bledsoe, Harold Paul 1644
<i>Procurement Forester</i>
Mead Container Board
Business: P.O. Box H
Stevenson, AL 35772
Phone: 205/437-3312
Home: 5840 C.R. 491
Stevenson, AL 36772
Phone: 205/437-9256 | Seale, Brian Timothy 1647
<i>Assistant Forester/Branch Manager</i>
Forest Stewardship Services
Business: 230 S. Jackson St. Suite 245
Albany, GA 31701
Phone: 912/883-1872
Home: 100 N. Donahue Dr. Apt. 221
Auburn, AL 36830
Phone: 334/826-2238 | Gee, Eric Daniel 1650
<i>Branch Manager</i>
James M. Vardaman & Co.
Business: 1266 Perry Hill Road
Montgomery, AL 36109
Phone: 334/271-1007
Home: 6209 Hickory Hill Court
Montgomery, AL 36117
Phone: 334/213-0879 | Born, Robert Gregory 1653
<i>Forester (Logging Systems)</i>
USDA Forest Service
Business: 2946 Chestnut Street
Montgomery, AL 36107
Phone: 334/241-8143
Home: 665 Cherokee Heights
Tallassee, AL 36078
Phone: 334/857-2188 |

CONGRATULATIONS!

WILLIAM ALAN WHITING APPOINTED TO BOARD

Governor Fob James has appointed Bill Whiting to fill the unexpired term of Bill Sahlie. His term will end in January of 1998.

When you ask Bill Whiting where he is from, his response is "everywhere." The son of an Air Force father, he was born in Washington, D.C., raised "everywhere" which includes Indiana, Pennsylvania, and 9 years in Germany, graduated from high school in Arkansas and received his Bachelors degree from the University of Arkansas at Monticello in 1975.

Next stop was a job with Potlach and then on to Mississippi State University for a Masters Degree in Forest Finance, which he completed in 1982. By that time he was employed by MacMillan Bloedel Packaging, Inc., and he still is. He has served the company in many capacities, from Forest Analyst, to Supervisor of Mensuration and Development, through Regional Operations Planning Supervisor and Product Marketing Coordinator, to his present position as Manager, Strategic Planning.

Bill has a wife, Mary, who is a registered nurse and who now works for the Wilcox County School Board. They have two sons, Will (12) and Matt (8). Most of Bill's free time centers around getting the boys raised, with the involvement with Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Little League, etc. that that requires. The "family" that Bill and Mary are raising also includes three dogs, two cats, and a rabbit. A white water rafting expedition for the entire family this past summer resulted in a great family vacation, even with some skepticism from the kids about the "Deliverance" experience.

Bill finds time to be active in the Alabama Division of the SESAF and has served as its chairman. He is on the Board of Directors of the Wilcox Academy and has been active in several service organizations in and around Camden. If he is ever "out of pocket", he is probably in a nearby duck blind.

Welcome aboard, Bill!

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING

The Board met in regular session on October 23, 1996. Retiring Vice Chairman Nonnemacher called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. Due to the death of Bill Sahlie, the Vice Chairman elect, Phillip Sasnett became Chairman. Bill Whiting, appointed by Governor James to fill Sahlie's unexpired term, was introduced and welcomed.

New elections were held for the other offices for the 1996-97 year. Rick Jones was elected Vice Chairman and Mike Beach was elected Secretary.

In summary, the Board reviewed 13 pieces of violation correspondence and acted on 5 violation cases. The Board approved 15 new applications for license, granted 3 requests for reciprocity, and reviewed the applications for 6 Forestry Interns. The Board granted licenses to 4 applicants who had passed the oral exam and to 8 applicants who passed the written exam.

The Board heard reports from the Public Information Committee, the Examination Committee (again discussed oral versus written examinations and computer generated exams), Finance and Administration Committee, Violations Committee, Continuing Education Committee (discussing the methods and requests for the audit of compliance), and the Forestry Law Study Committee (which met on September 25).

At the request of the Board, the Office Manager had conducted a survey of Registered Foresters practicing under the reciprocity provisions of the

Alabama Law to determine the desirability of assigning numbers to these foresters. The response was overwhelmingly in favor of having numbers and the Board agreed to assign the number of their own state's license with letters attached to identify the state.

The Board reviewed the transcript of a person requesting consideration for licensing and agreed that the courses submitted did not meet the requirements for license set out in our law.

The Chairman made the following committee assignments:

- Public Information - Sasnett
- Examination - Jones
- Violations - Beach
- Continuing Education - Whiting
- Forestry Law Study Committee - Sasnett

The Chairman made the following examination assignments for 1996-97

- Oral Examinations
 - January 28 - Beach
 - April 22 - Jones
 - July 22 - Whiting
 - October 28 - new member

- Written Examinations
 - April 2 - Sasnett
 - October 2 - Whiting

The Board discussed potential new oral exam panel members.

The meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m.

Faces and Places

William F. Sahlie (#78) died on August 15, 1996. He was Chairman of the Alabama State Board of Registration for Foresters, former president of the Alabama Forestry Association and the Alabama Forestry Council, and served on the Auburn School of Forestry Advisory Council. Among the honors given Bill was the Award of Excellence in General Forestry presented by the SESAF earlier this year. He was president of Saco Wood, Inc., Mid-South Wood, Inc., and acting mayor of Wetumpka, Alabama at his death.

Thomas R. Centner (#1083) died on August 7, 1996. He was director of the Forest Technology program at Lurleen B. Wallace State Junior College in Andalusia Alabama. He was active with 4-H forestry, a member of the Covington County Forestry Planning Committee, chair of the Andalusia Tree City Board, and a member of the Council of Eastern Forestry Technician Schools.

Richard Kent Hanby (#605) joined the faculty of the School of Forestry of Auburn University in May 1996 as the director of student services. He was previously employed as the forester for the State Lands Division of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in Montgomery.

Richard H. (Rick) Jones (#955) has accepted a position with the Dixon family as the General Manager of the Dixon Family Partnership. He leaves his position as Vice President and General Manager of Cedar Creek Land & Timber Company in Brewton. He will be moving to Andalusia, Alabama and begins with the Dixons on the first of December.

O. Paul Padgett (#984) will assume Rick's position as General Manager of Cedar Creek Land and Timber Company.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

(Copy and mail to address below)

NAME _____ LICENSE NO. _____

OLD ADDRESS _____

city

state

zip

NEW ADDRESS Business _____

city

state

zip

Residence _____

city

state

zip

NEW TELEPHONE Business (_____) _____ Residence (_____) _____

FAX Business (_____) _____ Residence (_____) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS Business (_____) _____ Residence (_____) _____

MAIL FORM TO: Alabama State Board of Registration for Foresters
513 Madison Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Alabama Board of Registration for Foresters
513 Madison Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 069
FLORENCE, AL