IOGERS-WORLD

VOLUME 49 NUMBER 12

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DECEMBER 2014

PRECISION TIMBER

TILLAMOOK, OREGON

Cerry Christmas!

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СИЕНАLIS, WA 98532-8425 СИЕНАLIS, WA 98532-8425 This Rigging Shack Classic originally ran in December of 1976

THE END OF ONE YEAR. THE BEGINNING OF ANOTHER!

Our business philosophy is contained in 24 words written by Herbert J. Taylor.

- 1. Is it the truth?
- 2. Is it fair to all concerned?
- 3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
- 4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

These are the four questions we at LOGGERS WORLD ask ourselves about every plan and project that we contemplate doing. These questions have save us much trouble and bad trips.

REALISM AND ATTITUDE

My main point in this end of one year, beginning of another year period is to talk about Realism and Attitude.

REALISM

We can try all our lives to be realistic and still never achieve it. One reason for this is that we are surrounded by and shouted at by hundreds of thousands of people who are not realists. It is difficult to separate what is real, what is relevant and what matters from the hurricane of propaganda coming toward us in the form of verbal shoutings, pictures and printed words.

The newspapers hunt up the strange and the different and pass it off as 'the happenings of the day'. Same with T.V. and other media. The thing to remember is that it wasn't the complete happenings of the day. On the day that 8

million people were unemployed, hundreds of millions of people were at their jobs making solid contributions through their work. At the time one man was murdering, another millions of people had no such course of action in their future.

The very important happenings of any

day never get reported. They are too commonplace to be news. But the danger here is thinking that what we see in the news is representative of what happened.

Because of this style of thinking we work on the wrong things and try to solve problems with the wrong methods. There is always a direct honest way to solve problems - at least most problems - and there is also a way to go around behind the barn to solve the problem in a way that doesn't work but adds more problems to the mess we started with.

If we could pick out a good logger and send him to Washington with the power to get a great job done, he could do it di-

rectly and he could do it quickly. But that ain't the way we do things.

We are taught we have a government of checks and balances. This is true and is set up so that one person cannot take control. But this backfires, too, because when we set it up so that one person can't take control, we set it up so that one person can't solve the problems. The congress knocks down the president. The supreme court knocks out the congress. The president appoints some of his people to the supreme court. The end result many times is that we spend hundreds of millions of dollars to hire a bunch of people to cancel each other out. Facing up to the facts is part of realism.

ATTITUDES

A Positive Mental Attitude helps us accomplish

things. To me a Positive Mental Attitude simply means: "Keep your mind on what you want to happen - not on what you are afraid might happen." What it boils down to is that 'if you believe you can do it or if you believe you can't do it' you are probably right.

Having a Positive Mental Attitude is a great thing all by itself but it is sort of useless unless it is a part of other things. Having PMA without acting on it don't get much done. But when you couple a strong positive attitude with some action - man you are hard to beat.

A strong attitude with action following a plannow you got something hard to stop. One man said a long time ago, 'What you can conceive, and believe, you can achieve.' I quote this statement of Napoleon Hill's a lot and some people relate to it and some don't. But basical-

> ly, and realistically, it is a true statement. The more you think about it, the more you become convinced it is a true statement of the facts.

> 'Well Hell', you say, 'I'm fifty years old and 40 pounds overweight and I believe I can be Heavyweight Boxing Champion of the World. No way I can do that.'

'Of course you can't', I answer, 'because you don't believe you can.

You are smart enough to know this isn't possible or you wouldn't use it for your question.' The trick is you must be able to believe it, right down to the heart wood. You must be able to believe it when you look at it with realism. If you get all the facts and you still believe you can do it - I wouldn't bet you couldn't.

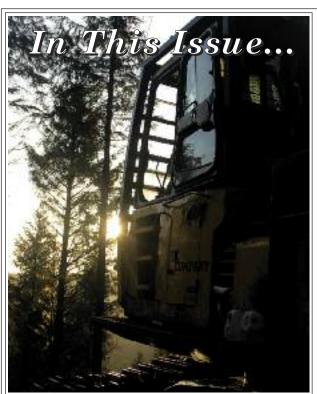
And that is the thought I want to take with me into this brand shining new year. I want to approach and live this year with more confidence, more belief, more accomplishments, more happiness than any year I've ever lived.

I believe I can.

FINLEY HAYS

I believe you can too!

With a realistic approach; a positive mental attitude and a planned course of action - we can all do it.



COVER PAGE PICTURE: THE SUN RISES on another day for Precision Timber and their Komatsu PC300HD Yoder out on the jobsite near Tillamook, Ore.

See "Right on Target at Precision" starting on Page 5.

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AMENDMENT?

- by William Perry Pendley

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FEATURED IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE



PRECISION TIMBER

Based out of Tillamook, Ore. Geoff Hoffert started Precision Timber a decade ago, primarly logging for Georgia-Pacific. Precision Timber largely logs out of the Siuslaw National Forest that encompasses 630,000 aces between Coos Bay, Ore. and Tillamook. Precision Timber hauls to a pulp mill in Toledo, Ore. and two saw mills in Coos Bay and Philomath, Ore. Logging through narrow corridors of thinning jobs with their Komatsu PC300HD Yoder, they also won a Merit Award in 2009 by the Northwest Oregon Regional Forest Practices Advisory Committee on the Juno Bay state timber sale for the Oregon Department of Forestry.





TILLAMOOK OREGON

Tillamook is a town of roughly 5,000 people in Tillamook County, Oregon on the southeast end of Tillamook Bay on the Pacific Ocean. Tillamook is home to a economy based on dairy farms. The farmland around the city is used largely for grazing by milk cows. Approximately one million people visit the cheese factory every year. The timber industry in Tillamook has experienced a comeback from replanting in the area after the famous Tillamook Burn forest fires between 1933-51 that burnt a total area of 355,000 aces. Tillamook has a mild and wet climate thanks to the proximity near the Pacific Oregon and lends well to the farming and timber industries.



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PRECISION TIMBER TILLAMOOK, ORE.

By Brandon Hansen

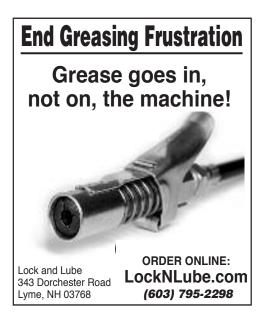
may be one of the few industries left that let you do it, but if there's one thing the timber industry allows, its for an individual to start their own business based on a hard day's work.

Tillamook's Geoff Hoffert is an example of that. He began small tree pruning and pre-commercial thinning for a tree farm. After Geoff learned to cut timber, he began as a cutter in the mid 90's, working long days with long commutes on each and moved from contract to contract.

"I was tired of working hard for someone else," he said. "I figured I would do it myself and potentially make more money."

Then things started to change for Hoffert in 2002. A friend he

(Continued on Page 8)
See "Precision"





TIMBER FALLER Ediie Kellogg falls a tree for Precision Timber out on the job site near Tillamook, Ore. After beginning his operation in 2002, Geoff Hoffert has grown in size from two men to roughly 10 employees working out of the Siuslaw National Forest that encompasses roughly 630,000 acres between Coos Bay, Ore. and Tillamook. They haul to a pulp mill in Toledo, Ore. and two saw mills in Coos Bay and Philomath, Ore. They operate in the narrow corridors of thinning job with their Komatsu PC300HD.



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PRECISION TIMBER'S Timmy Lane sharpens a saw on his Log Max 7000 processor during a little down time on the jobsite near Tillamook, Ore. Lane has been with the company for four years.

Precision

(Continued from Page 5)

was working for had some equipment he wanted to sell. Hoffert refinanced his pickup to buy a shovel and processor, then went further out on a limb and bought his first timber sale.

"There's not too many career choices out here to make a good decent wage to raise a family," Hoffert said. "You either buy a dairy farm or get into logging."

Using the equipment he acquired, Geoff did his first timber sale and Precision Timber had its start. Then as the old adage goes, one thing led to another - he acquired a TY40 small yarder and heard that Georgia Pacific was looking for a logger.

Georgia-Pacific, who Hoffert now primarily logs for, was founded in 1927 in Georgia, and supplied timber to the US during World War II. They bought their first mill in the

> (Continued on Page 15) See "Precision""

IT'S ABOUT PEOPLE

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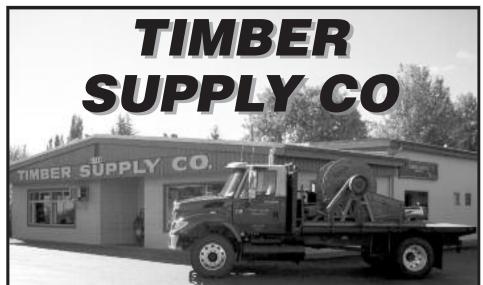


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PRECISION TIMBER'S David Stephens of Grand Ronde, Ore. operates his Komatsu PC300HD Yoder with an Acme Model 19 carriage out on the jobsite near Tillamook, Ore. Stephens started brand new with Precision Timber but has since become a skilled operator. "That's probably what we use 80 percent of the time," owner Geoff Hoffert said. "When we geared up we did so for timber thinning. We kind of bought the equipment that was going to be easier & fastest set up time."







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Precision Timber's Timmy Lane operates his Timbco T-425D with a Logmax 7000 processor head out on the jobsite near Tillamook, Ore. "He's my go-to guy," Hoffert said. "He's been with me the longest and I'm really happy with what he's doing."



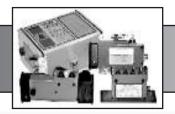
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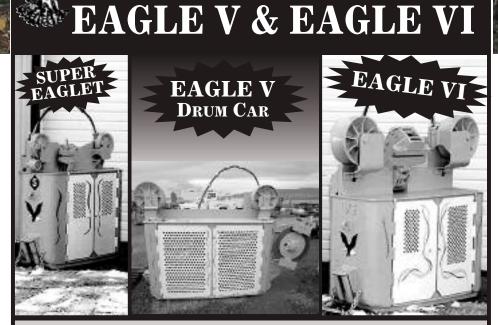




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Tillamook's Monte Derrick operates Precision Timber's 2014 Doosan 300 on the road leading up to the job site near Tillamook, Ore. in the Siuslaw National Forest.



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PRECISION TIMBER'S Timmy Lane operates his Timbco T-425D with a Logmax 7000 processor head out on the jobsite near Tillamook, Ore.

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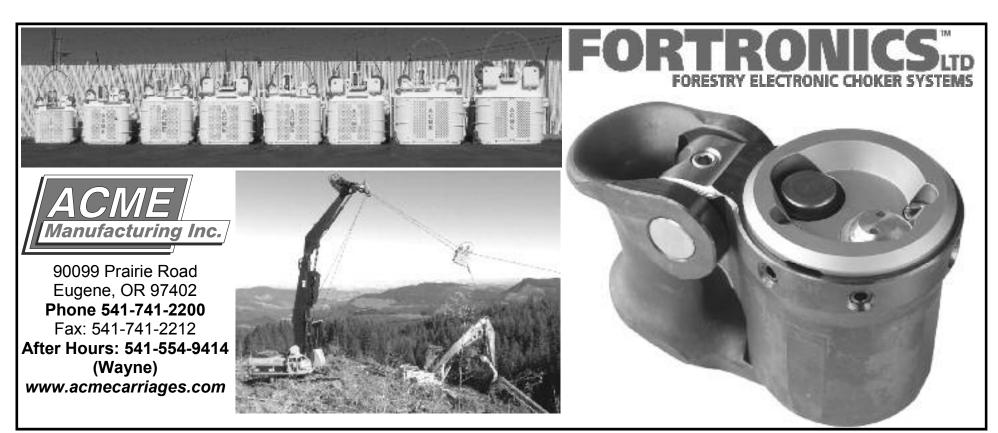
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Precision

(Continued from Page 8)

western United States in 1947 when they acquired a facility in Bellingham, Wash. They exceeded over \$20 billion in sales in 2003.

"They had a timber sale and were looking to put someone on it," Hoffert said. "We had some equipment, we gave him a price and they liked what they saw. Now one thing after another, they keep me going."

Doing primarily thinning on Forest Service land, Hoffert has had steady, honest work for for the previous 10 years including the tough times of the 2008 recession.

"I was tired of working hard for someone else. I figured I would do it myself and potentially" make more money.

- GEOFF HOFFERT -

"It was a pretty tough go but fortunately Georgia-Pacific was buying a lot of sales for the Toledo Mill," Hoffert said. "We were still plugging right along, they still needed chips for their hardboard."

Numbers-wide, Precision Timber has grown to about 9-10 people and runs two log trucks on the job. The log trucking side - which was featured in last month's Log Trucker Magazine - has a 1999 Kenworth T-800 and a 2003 Kenworth W-900L. The 2003 W-900L features a Lincoln Industrial stick trailer

> (Continued on Page 16) See "Precision""



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HIGH ABOVE THE LANDING, Precision Timber's David Stephens operates his Komatsu PC300HD Yoder out on the jobsite near Tillamook, Ore. Stephens started brand new with Precision Timber but has since become a skilled operator.

Precision

(Continued from Page 15)

that can haul both a supertrain and a short log load.

"We had a problem getting rid of our short stuff," Hoffert said. "That's kind of the last thing to leave a job and then it's tough to find a truck to come up and haul it. Your equipment also has to wait around to load it before you can move to a new site."

Precision Timber largely logs out of the Siuslaw National Forest that encompasses roughly 630,000 acres between Coos Bay, Ore. and Tillamook. They haul to a pulp mill in Toledo, Ore. and two saw mills in Coos Bay and Philomath, Ore.

On the logging side of the things, Hoffert's operation has to

be equally as versatile. They operate in the narrow corridors of thinning jobs with their Komatsu PC300HD Yoder operated by David Stephens of Grand Ronde, Ore. and using an Acme Model 19 carriage.

"That's probably what we use 80 percent of the time," Hoffert said. "When we geared up we did so for timber thinning. We kind of bought the equipment that was going to be the easiest and fastest set up time."

Stephens started out two years ago for Hoffert completely green. Hoffert said he likes bringing in people new and showing them the ropes.

"In the last couple of years it

(Continued on Page 18)

See "Precision"



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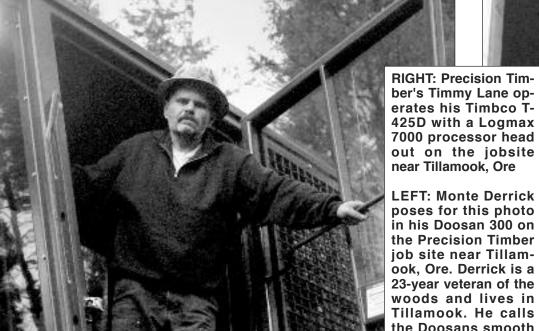
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ber's Timmy Lane operates his Timbco T-425D with a Logmax 7000 processor head out on the jobsite near Tillamook, Ore

poses for this photo in his Doosan 300 on the Precision Timber job site near Tillamook, Ore. Derrick is a 23-year veteran of the woods and lives in Tillamook. He calls the Doosans smooth and dependable. .



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(Continued from Page 16)

has worked well to find guys who are new and show them how we like things done," Hoffert said.

Hoffert also had a Doosan 300 shovel on site, operated by Tillamook's Monte Derrick.

"They're really nice," Derrick said of the Doosans. "I'd rather run a Doosan, they're smooth and dependable. They're durable, handling anything we put them through."

Derrick added he was born on a farm and raised in the Tillamook area, and has been a logger for the past 23 years.

"Everyday is a challenge and we don't know what to expect and that's the neat thing about it," Derrick said.

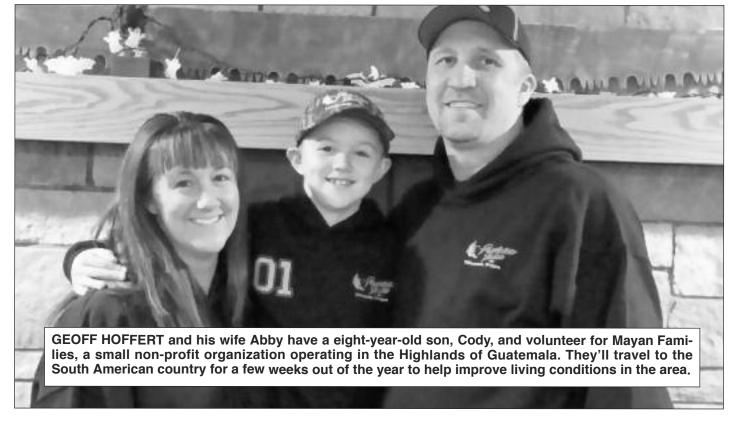
Timmy Lane runs the Timbco T-425D with a Log Max 7000 and has been with Hoffert and Precision Timber for four years.

"He's my go-to guy," Hoffert said. "He's been with me the longest and I'm really happy with what he's doing."

In general, Hoffert added, he's found a good group of guys that know how Georgia-Pacific wants things.

"They do what they're supposed to and they're very consistent," Hoffert said. "I can be gone and they know what to do. I'm still there almost every day but it's good to know I have this crew."

The rigging crew - the inte-



gral part of any logging operation - consists of Lee Higgenbotthem, who has been there a couple of years, along with Devlin O'Neil and David Wickersham.

Hoffert use to set his own chokers but has since worked on making Higgenbotthem the hooktender.

"He's been with a couple of years and he'll ask a few questions but pretty much takes it from there," Hoffert said.

Cutters Eddy Kellogg and Mark Overpeck work on keeping the logs ready for harvest, while Hoffert's wife Abby does all the bookkeeping.

The Hoffert's appreciate the hard work their crew puts in.

Not wanting to treat their employees like numbers, they took the whole crew to Jerry's Rogue Jet Boat tours in Gold Beach,

"We wanted people to know they're family," Abby said.

And family is a big deal to the Hofferts. Perhaps the biggest advantage of working for yourself and having a good, dependable crew is the fact that Geoff can adjust his hours.

"I like the ability to spend time with my family," Hoffert said.

Hoffert's dad worked at the mill unloading log trucks and his brother has been out in the woods since he was 18. Hoffert

still brings his 82-year old dad firewood to stay active. Hoffert and Abby have an eight-year old boy, Cody, and they also volunteer for Mayan families, a small non-profit organization operating in the Highlands of Guatemala. They'll travel to the Central American country for a few weeks out of the year and help improve living conditions in that area.

The Tillamook logging community can also feel like family. The town of almost 5,000 people is best known for its dairies and cheese factory and it also one of the gateways to the Oregon

> (Continued on Page 19) See "Precision""

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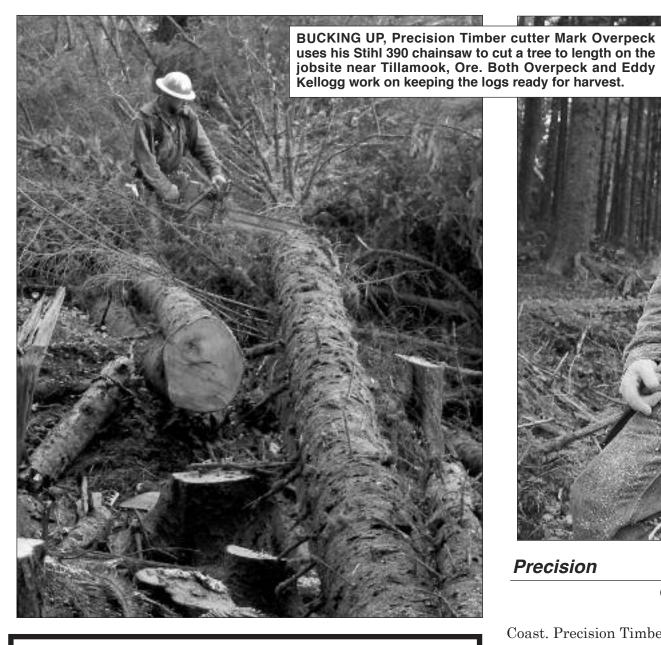
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Precision

(Continued from Page 18

Coast. Precision Timber's work around Tillamook earned them a Merit Award in 2009 by the Northwest Oregon Regional Forest Practices Advisory Committee for their work on the Juno Bay state timber sale for the Oregon Department of Forestry. Hoffert plans on upgrading the older equipment and wants to see how the new Lincoln trailer works. If the results are positive, he wants to get another log truck with the dual purpose trailer for hauls to Georgia-Pacific mills.

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BLAST FROM THE PAST By Quinn Murk

It is with great pleasure that we introduce Quinn Murk, a logging historian who will be a regular contributor to Loggers World's Blast from the Past section. This month's photos are from Quinn's collection and we are pleased to be able to share them with you.



LEFT: A lonely brakeman is taking a rest on a nice load of Sitka Spruce logs. Bracing himself on the end of one of the logs, he holds his "hickey" at his right side. A hickey is a special cheater

bar to give him added leverage on a hand brake wheel.

When the locomotive engineer blows the signal, he will spring into action: tightening the brake on the car, jumping up on the load, racing down it, jumping onto the next car, tightening its brake. He will do this on all of his cars. When the engineer signals to release the brakes, the reverse is done, and he will work his way back to this car. Depending on the length of the train, up to three or four brakemen will work a log train.

A brakeman's job also proved very risky, especially in foul weather, and in the course of railroad logging hundreds of West Coast brakemen were crippled or killed on the job.

This 1941 color picture is from the collection of Quinn J. Murk, Siletz, Oregon.

RIGHT: A hard-working loading crew takes time out to pose for an unknown photographer. Their well-worked, well battered "Climax" looks like it is probably building up a good head of steam to take the loaded cars behind her to the dump. This is a "rollway" landing, as the yarder in the background is a roading engine. It pulls in logs on the ground down a skid road, probably from another engine up to a couple of thousand feet from here.

This could have been done up to three times, with a yarding engine at the end of the skid road pulling logs out of the brush.

The logs on the rollway are loaded by simply rolling them onto a car. They are not stacked at all. The crude wooden cars carry only one to three logs apiece. They are loaded in the order they come in from the woods, no corring at all.

they come in from the woods, no sorting at all.

This old hand-tinted photo from the early 1900's is from the

collection of Quinn J. Murk, Siletz, Oregon. Quinn can be reached by mail at: Quinn Murk, P. O. Box 319, Siletz, OR 97380

CORRECTION

In last month's Blast from the Past, we incorrectly identified the Coal Creek Lumber Co. locomotive in the photo as a Climax. It is not a Climax. We don't know who built it but it is definately NOT a Climax.





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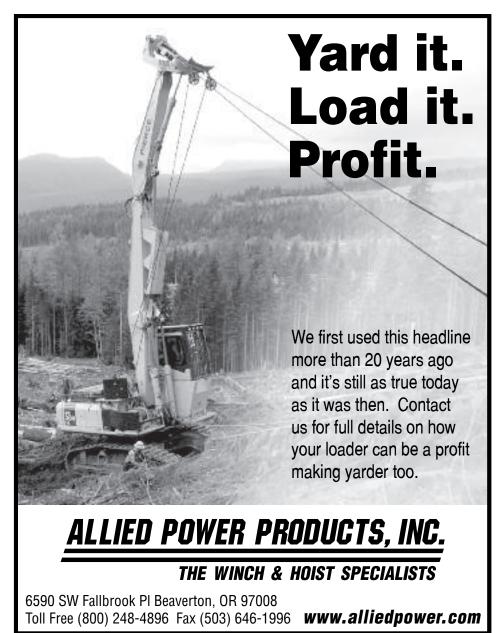
The Union Lumber Co. of Fort Bragg, California at one time was a sizable operation. Like most redwood logging in the 1950's and 60's, it used "selective cutting" and tractor skidding. Special skidding cats were built without blades, and fitted with front bumpers to protect

the front idlers from impact. This saved a lot of track tension problems on these hard-working cats.

Some manufacturers even offered special transmissions for hard, low geared pulling. Dipper stick shovels were also frequently used in the big timber at that time. Fitted with "air tongs," the double line purchase gave increased lifting capacity. Also, the crowd action on the dipper stick itself offered precise placement of the log on the truck. This made loading faster and safer. These off-highway trucks packed a heck of a load back in the day of 150 hp engines.

This 1955 photo is from the collection of Quinn J. Murk, Siletz,

Oregon.



Notes from the New Publishers

How's it going?

People often ask me "How's it going, Kevin?" Well, that depends on the day. Most days are going pretty well, but every now and then I get a call that I'd rather have the boss take $then\ I\ remember\ that\ I\ am\ the\ boss...$

This time was one of those. A reader was concerned that we had mis-identified a locomotive in one of our "Blast from the Past" photos. We have been getting those photos and descriptions from logging museums in the area, so it wasn't our fault, but it's still wrong. As I talked to the person, I got the idea that he really, REALLY knew what he was talking about. Come to find out he is a logging historian with an extensive knowledge of logging in the west. He also has a large collection of historical photos.

Now my brain is really going, and

I'm thinking "This guy would be ideal as the contributor/source for our "Blast from the Past" historical photos section." After a little more visiting, I found out that he has a passion to share his knowledge with others and enjoyed writing for publications.

Introducing...

I'm proud to introduce to the readers of Loggers World: Mr. Quinn J. Murk, of Siletz, Oregon - Logging Historian and preserver of logging historical photos and documents. You will find his first contributions on pages 20 and

Quinn has the ability to boil down the facts to what we non-historians want to know about these interesting old logging photos. I think you are going to like his work and his choice of interesting subjects, I know I do!

Notes from the front (and only) office...

From Co-Publisher Nancy: Office Hours: Since the office is in our home, office hours will be whenever we're home and not sleeping! My "other" job has somewhat irregular hours, so my phone answering time could be morning or evening, and Kevin will answer the phone when he's in. However, there may be times when you'll get our answering machine. If you do, it would be so helpful if you'd leave a message that includes your name, phone number (including area code), the reason you're calling, and the best time to call back. If you don't get a call back by the end of the next business day, there is a reason! Here are some possibilities: The caller's cell phone faded in and out, making it impossible to tell who called and what number they left; a phone number was left, but without the area code; when we try to call back, the caller's message mailbox is full and not accepting messages; the caller leaves a name, but no phone number.

Please call us back if you don't get the return call you expected - we promise we aren't just ignoring you! If you prefer, we gladly accept email messages - logworld@aol.com.

Subscription Corrections

Some of our subscribers have let us know that they're receiving duplicate issues of the magazine, or it's going to the wrong address. If this applies to you, please call or better yet, email the information to us and we'll be glad to fix it. Another problem we've heard about is some subscribers haven't received all of their issues. If we have your name in our database, you should receive a magazine every month. Unfortunately, once the magazines are mailed their arrival at your address is out of our control, and can take quite a while from the time they're mailed. If you miss an issue, please contact us so we can make sure we have the correct mailing information for you and send you a replacement. Thanks again for your patience as we work through transition issues!

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PERCEPTION

Perception is complex constructions of simple elements joined through association and is subject to the influence of learning. Perception can result from a catastrophic event or a description provided by someone you trust.

When it comes to professional timber harvesters, perception is all over the board. Absent education, a bad or false perception will linger forever. There are many people in this country that would be content if trees were never harvested again; they are comfortable in their perception that boards come from the lumber yards, not from the forest.

The United States has more forested acres today than 100 years ago; this can be credited to many factors including our industries interest in sustainability. Few people understand this and education is needed to change this perception. Our industry has done a poor job of educating the public whether by word or deed. During this same period the environmental industry has done a great job distorting the facts and fueling their coffers on people's emotions.

If in fact environmental standards were the leading factor governing fiber purchase, the public would demand a halt to fiber importation into this country. The general public seems to like the idea of the regulatory environment we are burdened with as they approve of all these layers of Government oversight. The market place proves that they are equally concerned with the cost of the products we produce. This leaves our industry trying to figure out how to cover the cost associated with these regulations and continue to compete in a worldwide market. Many simple things can be done to help the public better understand how our industry supplies fiber to the market place in an environmentally sound manner. The public needs to recognize we operate under the most stringent rules anywhere in the world.

Loggers are stubborn people, overly optimistic, and for some odd reason relish doing things others say can't be done. Forty years ago working harder could bring about positive results, but that is not necessarily true anymore. Loggers today spend too much time concerned with where the next job will come from, instead of what all businesses should be concerned with, whether or not it makes good business sense to take it. Our concern over "surviving" until the next job or logging season distract us from the real need to educate the public in order to retain our "social" license to operate.

Perception can be influenced through education and it is up to us because we understand what it takes to harvest timber in this country. First, we need to in-

sure that our fellow loggers all have the best business tools to deal with the environment we are working in. Second the timber harvesting community needs to educate everyone we come in contact with on exactly what it is that we do. the quality of our work, and the reasons we do it. No one else is going to do this for us, so we must be proactive when it comes to educating others and don't let these opportunities slip by. We, after all, are the ones that cut down the trees, making it is easy to point a finger at us and call us the bad guys. The public needs to understand that we do it while meeting burdensome environmental regulations and all of the other associated rules and regulations that go into operating a business in this country. We are a lucky industry because we work with renewable resources that if managed correctly will be around forever, not all industries can say the same.

With the holidays upon us I hope it gives the timber harvesting community time to think about where our industry is, and where we are going. I hope that consideration will be given to educating others this coming year on exactly what it is we do out in the woods each and every day. We can be a community that cuts down trees or we can be a dedicated industry of environmental stewards working hard to sustain a renewable resource and provide jobs that ensure

livelihoods to families and communities.

Perception means a lot to children and adults seeking more information on this cubiect and we need to do a better job of subject and we need to do a better job of



Myles Anderson is the current President of the American Loggers Council and he and his father Mike own and operate Anderson Logging, Inc. based out of Fort Bragg, CA.

The American Loggers Council is a nonprofit 501(c) (6) corporation representing professional timber harvesters in 30 states across the US. For more information, visit their web site at www.ameri $can loggers. or g \ or \ contact \ their \ of fice \ at$ 409-625-0206.

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Summary Judgment....

Obama Losing **His War On the Second** Amendment?

by William Perry Pendley

Last month, two Pennsylvania state legislators walking to their apartment after an evening meal in Harrisburg were accosted by an armed assailant demanding their wallets. When the gunman put a 9 mm handgun to the head of Representative Ryan Bizzarro (D-Erie), Representative Marty Flynn (D-Scranton), a former county corrections officer with a concealed carry permit, drew his .380 Smith & Wesson and fired. The gunman, his accomplice, and two others-teenagers all-were arrested nearby; they later admitted committing a Capitol Hill robbery a day earlier that netted cash, cell phones, and computers.

Last summer, at a hospital in Darby, a Philadelphia suburb, caseworker Theresa Hunt brought a patient to psychiatrist Dr. Lee Silverman for his appointment. The patient extracted a hidden

pistol, killed Hunt, and turned the gun on Silverman. Silverman, who has a concealed carry permit, ducked behind his desk, grabbed his weapon, and, though grazed in the temple and hand, returned fire. The wounded patient fled but was subdued and his pistol seized. Although hospital policy bars weapons by other than active-duty police, the local chief said, "[T]he doctor saved lives."

Meanwhile last fall, in Moore, a suburb of Oklahoma City at the offices of Vaughan Foods, Mark Vaughan, the chief operating officer and a reserve county deputy, heard cries responding to the murder of Colleen Hufford by beheading and the stabbing of another fe-male employee. Vaughan rushed to his car, retrieved his weapon secured there under Oklahoma's Bring Your Gun to Work law, and returned. While an em-

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ployee spoke with 911, Vaughan cornered and shot the perpetrator in the midst of his one-man Islamic jihad. Said a police sergeant, "This [killing] was not going to stop if [Vaughan] didn't stop it."

Elizabeth Moore, a nurse in Lewiston, Idaho, two hundred miles north of Boise, seeks to exercise the Second Amendment rights employed so effectively by Flynn, Silverman, and Vaughan, not to protect herself on a city's mean streets, in a psyche ward, or even at work, but when recreating in the middle of nowhere on federal lands in the Pacific Northwest, specifically lands managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Morris has an emergency concealed carry license from the Nez Perce County Sheriff due to 2012 threats and physical attacks by a former neighbor and regularly carries a handgun for self-defense, but she may not do so when she uses Corps-administered public lands near the Snake River in Lewiston, Idaho, to boat with friends, to hike with her dog, or to reach nearby Hells Gate State

Late last month, ruling in a lawsuit brought by Morris, an Idaho federal district court struck down a 1973 Corps regulation, unchanged since the landmark 2008 decision of the Supreme Court in District of Columbia v. Heller. The case is headed for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals but the Idaho judge argues that Ninth Circuit precedent requires his holding ("banning the use of handguns on Corps' property by law-abiding citizens for self-defense purposes violates the Second Amendment") be upheld.

Meanwhile, a Tenth Circuit Court in Denver heard an appeal by the U.S. Postal Service from a Colorado federal district court's invalidation of its unconstitutional 1972 regulation that bars firearms in locked cars in its parking lots. The Colorado man who brought the case, Tab Bonidy of Avon, cross appealed for the right to enter, armed, his closed post office to retrieve or drop mail late at night. During oral argument in early October, one judge asked about the Obama administration's concern that criminals could be using the building to transport drugs. All the more reason, answered Bonidy's lawyer, for him to have his concealed weapon at hand.

The Ninth and Tenth Circuit preside over more than a third of the country. Favorable rulings there limiting the federal government's powers over the Second Amendment will have a huge impact; moreover, in any case, the Supreme Court waits.

Mr. Pendley, a Wyoming attorney, is President and Chief Legal Officer of Mountain States Legal Foundation and a regular columnist in Loggers World.