

50th Anniversary  
**CELEBRATION**

New Hampshire Timberland  
Owners' Association



**WAUMBEK HOTEL**

Jefferson, New Hampshire

June 29, 1960

# New Hampshire Timberland Owners' Association



## DIRECTORS

|                |                             |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| C. S. Herr     | Brown Company               |
| H. S. Mountain | Groveton Papers Company     |
| Lee Abbott     | Pingree Timberlands         |
| W. A. Ruch     | International Paper Company |
| Merit Bean     | A. M. Bean, Inc.            |
| F. W. Cowan    | St. Regis Paper Company     |
| R. S. Monahan  | Dartmouth College           |

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## OFFICERS

|                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| President           | C. S. Herr              |
|                     | Brown Company           |
|                     | Berlin, New Hampshire   |
| Vice President      | H. S. Mountain          |
|                     | Groveton Papers Company |
|                     | Groveton, New Hampshire |
| Secretary-Treasurer | D. J. Horan             |
|                     | 11 Quinn Court          |
|                     | Berlin, New Hampshire   |

## MENU



CREAM OF TOMATO SOUP

HOME BAKED HOT ROLLS                      RELISH TRAY

CHEF'S SALAD

CHOICE OF FRENCH, GARLIC, RUSSIAN, 1000-ISLAND  
OR BLEU CHEESE DRESSING

ROAST PRIME RIBS OF BEEF AU JUS

FRANCONIA POTATOES                      FRESH GARDEN PEAS

SUMMER SQUASH

ICE CREAM AND CAKE

AFTER DINNER MINTS                      COFFEE, TEA OR MILK

## PROGRAM



HONORABLE PERKINS BASS ..... Congressman  
Peterborough                      Second Congressional District  
New Hampshire

MR. EDGAR C. HIRST .... "Early Days of the Association"

Mr. Hirst, a graduate of the Yale Forestry School, and New Hampshire's first State Forester, was an important factor in the founding of this Association. He later became prominent in banking circles in the State and presently is Chairman of the Board of the First National Bank of Concord.

MR. STEWART H. HOLBROOK ..... "Holy Old Mackinaw's  
Travels from the Con-  
necticut to the Columbia  
Rivers"

Stewart Holbrook is a nationally famous author and speaker. He was born in the upper Connecticut River Valley and admits to getting started as a woods clerk in our nearby timberlands. His first book, "Holy Old Mackinaw," published in 1938, is a natural history of the American lumberjack. Some of his other books include "Ethan Allen," "Lost Men of History," "Yankee Exodus," "Golden Age of Quackery," and "The Age of the Moguls." He is presently at work on a new book about the Boston Post Road.

**Members of the New Hampshire Timberland  
Owners' Association**

|   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| Brown Co. ....                                    | Berlin, N. H.            |
| St. Regis Paper Co. ....                          | West Stewartstown, N. H. |
| Groveton Papers Co. ....                          | Groveton, N. H.          |
| Pingree Timberlands .....                         | Bangor, Me.              |
| International Paper Co. ....                      | North Stratford, N. H.   |
| Dartmouth College .....                           | Hanover, N. H.           |
| Northern New Hampshire Lumber Co. ....            | Bradford, Vt.            |
| C. M. C. Twitchell Heirs .....                    | Berlin, N. H.            |
| Henry Sutcliffe Coe .....                         | Bangor, Me.              |
| E. Libby & Sons Co. ....                          | Gorham, N. H.            |
| A. M. Bean, Inc. ....                             | Errol, N. H.             |
| New England Power Co. ....                        | Boston, Mass.            |
| Town of Gorham .....                              | Gorham, N. H.            |
| C. N. Hodgdon Co. ....                            | Berlin, N. H.            |
| N. H. Water Resources Board .....                 | Concord, N. H.           |
| Howard T. Woodward .....                          | Berlin, N. H.            |
| Earle W. Philbrook .....                          | Littleton, N. H.         |
| Tillotson Rubber Co., Inc.<br>(The Balsams) ..... | Dixville, N. H.          |
| Public Service Co. of N. H. ....                  | Berlin, N. H.            |
| Percy Summer Club of N. H. ....                   | Percy, N. H.             |
| Herbert L. Malcolm Estate .....                   | Randolph, N. H.          |
| Lawrence E. Philbrook .....                       | Shelburne, N. H.         |
| Dr. R. H. McVetty .....                           | Berlin, N. H.            |
| L. D. Fogg & Son .....                            | Northumberland, N. H.    |
| Wagner Woodlands .....                            | Lyme, N. H.              |

**History Of The  
New Hampshire Timberland  
Owners' Association**

Early in the present century, the forest fire problem was extremely acute, particularly in northern New Hampshire, with critical years in 1903, 1911 and 1913.

The State fire protection organization was then in its infancy, and funds for its growth and development were limited. Realizing the need of a better protective system, the Forestry Commission requested the large timberland owners to meet with them at the Mt. Madison Hotel in Gorham, New Hampshire, on March 30, 1910, for a discussion of ways and means of strengthening fire prevention and suppression activities.

Among those participating at this meeting were Robert P. Bass, then President of the Forestry Commission, later Governor of New Hampshire; E. C. Hirst, New Hampshire's first State Forester; William T. Cox of the United States Forest Service; E. E. Ring, Forest Commissioner of Maine; and Austin Hawes, State Forester of Vermont.

The response was gratifying, and as a result of this meeting, the timberland owners contributed \$4,100 toward the immediate building of lookout stations, and appointed a committee to consider the advisability of forming a permanent association for the purpose of fire protection. With these funds, lookout service in northern New Hampshire shortly became a reality.

In the fall of 1910, a second meeting was called, and the New Hampshire Timberland Owners' Association was organized and incorporated as a non-profit organization, representing an ownership of about one million acres, and thereby became one of the first cooperative groups of its kind in the country. The members agreed to assess themselves on an acreage basis to provide additional funds for essential fire protection service.

The first Directors of the Association were W. R. Brown of Berlin Mills Company (now Brown Company); W. H. Bundy of Conway Lumber Company; G. S. Lewis of Connecticut Valley Lumber Company; F. P. Thomas of International Paper Company; and C. C. Wilson of Odell Manufacturing Company (now Groveton Papers Company). Officers were W. R. Brown, President; W. H. Bundy, Vice President; and F. H. Billard, Secretary-Treasurer, Forester.

The New Hampshire Timberland Owners' Association began its first year of operation in the spring of 1911. They constructed six new mountain lookout stations located on Deer Mountain near the Canadian line in Pittsburg; Dixville Peak south of Dixville Notch; Cabot Mountain in Killenney, Black Mountain in Benton, Stinson Mountain in Rumney, and Mount Chocorua in Albany.

In addition, the Association constructed approximately fifty miles of telephone lines to points where patrolmen had access to them and could report on fire detection activities, and either cut new trails or improved existing ones in order to increase the efficiency of the patrol service. Twenty-five tool boxes, equipped with hand tools, were constructed and placed at strategic points.

The Association developed maps of ninety-four towns which consisted of both tracings and prints of each town, showing lot subdivisions. With these maps it was possible to locate the land of the members and plan the patrol routes economically and effectively.

During the first few months of the patrol season, the Association employed fifty-eight men patrolling daily, and twenty-six additional men patrolling on Sundays. On June 4, 1911, as a result of the passage of the Weeks Act by Congress earlier in the year, an agreement went into effect whereby the State was granted Federal funds to employ patrolmen in the mountain region during the fire season. The routes these men were to patrol were laid out

by a representative of the United States Forest Service, the State Forester, and the Forester of the Timberland Owners' Association.

The Legislature passed new fire laws in 1911, and as a result the State was divided into four fire districts. Funds appropriated were insufficient to pay the regular rate of \$3.00 per day and expenses for the four district chiefs appointed, and it was found that men capable of supervising the work in a district could not be secured at this rate. In order that better men might be secured, the Association agreed to supplement the amount paid by the State, and in return these officials were to help in placing and supervising the Association patrolmen.

The State law of 1911 also provided for the acquisition and operation by the Forestry Commission of the mountain lookout stations which had been established, and for the construction and maintenance of additional stations. In compliance with this Act, stations which had been built and operated during the previous two years by private subscription were taken over by the State. As funds became available, the State took over the remaining lookout stations, and the last of the stations built by the Association were taken over by the State the early part of 1917. The total amount paid by the Forestry Department for the six lookout stations originally owned by the Association was \$837.12.

Relieved of the responsibility for maintaining the lookout stations, the Association was able to devote its full time and resources to its primary function, namely, that of maintaining patrols during the fire season in the more hazardous areas, particularly where timber cutting operations were in progress.

That the Association quickly became an effective and serviceable agency in the field for which it was organized is evidenced by the following report made in 1916 by the State Forestry Commission:

“Since the Association began work in the spring of 1911, their patrolmen have extinguished 500 incipient fires and have cautioned more than 16,000 persons found in the woods. Its work is of great importance in protecting adjacent private land and amounts to practically a self-imposed tax for all the members. While they benefit directly by getting better protection for their own lands than the State Government service affords, their efforts greatly reduce the fire risk for all surrounding lands. The region in which the Association has cooperated represents over thirty per cent of the total woodland acreage of the State. During the five years from 1911 to 1915, the actual acreage burned by forest fires in this region was only about sixteen per cent of that for the whole State.”

The Association also made progress on educational work in fire prevention throughout the region. Thousands of paper drinking cups were distributed for the use of tourist and hiking parties, each cup printed with a message on the need for care in the use of fires. Other means of stressing the importance of fire prevention have been the use of red labels on mailing material with a caution notice printed thereon, exhibits in County and Grange Fairs, the distribution of match books, and more recently the use of bumper strips on cars.

The progress of the Association, together with the fire prevention services provided by the State and Federal Governments, is indicated dramatically by the number of fires occurring and the acreage burned in the area covered by the Association since its organization.

### Fire Record At 5-Year Intervals

| Year | Number of Fires | Total Area Burned | Average Area Burned by Each Fire |
|------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1911 | 70              | 4,835             | 69                               |
| 1916 | 16              | 112               | 7                                |
| 1921 | 38              | 1,850             | 49                               |
| 1926 | 2               | 102               | 51                               |
| 1931 | 14              | 182               | 6                                |
| 1936 | 19              | 26                | 2                                |
| 1941 | 13              | 264               | 20                               |
| 1946 | 13              | 40                | 3                                |
| 1951 | 20              | 219               | 10.9                             |
| 1956 | 7               | 2                 | .29                              |

Under the State statutes, enacted in 1921, the owners of any forest land of one thousand acres or more in any one town or unorganized place, or in a contiguous area, are required to furnish or provide therefor, during the portion of the year when there is danger of forest fires, adequate patrol against the spread of fire therefrom, to the amount of one cent an acre a year. The Association, through its cooperative program, satisfies this phase of the State law.

The Forestry and Recreation Commission of the State of New Hampshire and the New Hampshire Timberland Owners' Association entered into an agreement, effective July 1, 1947, regarding the patrol of private forest lands within the Association membership, which remains in effect at present and provides for complete coordination with the State and Federal forest fire programs.

The purposes of this agreement are:

1. To establish the position of the New Hampshire Timberland Owners' Association in the Forest Fire Control plan of the State of New Hampshire.

2. To permit the State Forester to use the funds expended for Fire Control by the Association in claiming federal reimbursement under Section 2 of the Clarke-McNary Law.

In order to claim federal reimbursement for Association expenditures it is necessary:

a. That such expenditures be required by State Law or made voluntarily as part of the approved State Plan and System of Fire Control;

b. That they be covered by a written agreement with the State Forester and be subjected to his general supervision;

c. That protection be extended to all classes of forest land;

d. That audit of Association expenditures as well as supervision of the field work be provided by the State.

The Forestry and Recreation Commission agrees that membership in the New Hampshire Timberland Owners' Association shall be acceptable as an adequate observance of the requirements of Chapter 48, Section 233, of the revised laws.

The New Hampshire Timberland Owners' Association agrees:

1. To observe for its members the provisions of Chapter 48, Section 233, of the revised laws.

2. To conduct its patrol on private forest lands under the general supervision of the State Forester.

3. To supply the Commission with its annual budget.

4. To supply the Commission with a quarterly statement of expenditures.

5. To make available at all reasonable times to the Commission or its duly authorized agent, the books and accounts of the Association at its office.

This agreement was a milestone in the Association's growth because it set forth a pattern for the organization whereby the State would handle its regular fire control activities, leaving the Association free to devote its full time to patrol work.

The Association has assisted the State in fire training sessions for wardens and deputies and in placing of well qualified men in hazardous areas during the fire season. These men are accessible by telephone and radio, and cover a very large area by the use of motor vehicles.

The area currently under protection covers a little over 600,000 acres compared to the original 1,000,000 acres. A large portion of the original acreage was acquired as National Forest. Today adequate patrol service is being rendered by eight men, principally because the areas are infinitely more accessible than in the early days.

During the last twenty years of service, the Association has confined its activities to the northern part of the State, principally Coos County, in which most of the large ownerships exist. However, it is still chartered to serve the entire State. A few timberland owners maintain membership in areas beyond the northern section, but their participation is one of general interest rather than patrol service received.

Space does not permit citing the many individuals who have contributed to the fine service record of the Association in this half century of operation. They were all dedicated men who were concerned with protecting our principal natural resource—timber.

With new means of communication, improved techniques in fire prevention and suppression, this Association will continue to be an important factor in protecting its members' timberlands from fire, the purpose for which it was organized fifty years ago.