

Condensed History of the Sierra-Cascade Logging Conference 1949-2015

This is a combination of the First 25 Years by Wampy Wambold, the First 50 Years by Warren Carlton and 1999 to 2010 by Bill Dennison. Important facts, highlights, and changes are included in this report.

Compiled by Jerry Evans
September 2015

Back in the early thirties, Archie Whisnant Secretary of the Pacific Logging Congress and George Cornwall, Editor of the Timberman, were busy organizing regional Logging Conferences to better serve the logging and lumbering people of the various regions and to deal with the problems peculiar to those areas.

In California there were two Conferences started, The Redwood Conference was one and has been in business since it started in the early thirties. The other was the Pine Conference which lasted only two years, and then went out of business.

The first Conference was held at Klamath Falls, Oregon. There were approximately 40 people in attendance. The Conference consisted of a program only. It had no equipment show, although there were equipment representatives in attendance.

The second Conference was held In Reno Nevada. This Conference consisted of a program only. There were distractions from the program, as there were only 7 people at one of the meetings.

That was the end of the Pine Logging Conference.

At the request of F. W. Tarr, in a letter written May 2, 1949, there was a meeting in Chico, California on May 24, 1949 when preliminary organizational work was done on the present organization. Archie Whisnant, Harold Crane, F. W. Tarr, Bob Grimmett, Swift Berry, Jack and Bill Berry were active in getting the organization off the ground.

The new organization was named Sierra-Cascade Logging Conference, and its territory was to consist of the Pine Producing forestlands in California and the Pine producing lands in Southern Oregon. . A board of directors was quickly assembled. Based on 1954 records the board was organized by districts, with the directors being representative of the Rogue River, Siskiyou-Modoc Coast, South Sierra, North Sierra, East Side, and Klamath Basin Districts. The District Director organization remained in place through the 1968 Conference.

The Sierra-Cascade Logging Conference is unique since it has had a machinery show every year, except one since its inception.

The first Conference was held in Chico, California in February 2 through February 4, 1950. All subsequent conferences have been held in February.

Harold Crane, Crane Mills was the first President, Jack Berry was Secretary-Treasurer, Bill Berry was Program Chairman, and Ed Gurney was Equipment Chairman.

It was here that Bill Berry introduced the "Riggers Roundtable," an invitation for anyone to get up and speak. Bill Berry was an expert on handling the "Riggers Round Table." Bill could generate enough controversy in introducing his subject so that it was not necessary to have 'stooges' in the audience to keep the thing alive. It was a question of keeping it under control.

The theme "A Picture of the Mixed Pine Logging Industry." There was an Equipment show at the Chico Municipal Airport which was held in tents, and the program was conducted in the airplane hangars. The rain was excessive during the period of the Conference and the Sacramento Valley was inundated by floodwater. Under the deluge the tents started to leak and the colors ran out of the decorations and all over the exhibits. Then huge bulges of trapped water developed in the tent, encouraging most to escape to the safety of the bar. The Equipment Committee salvaged the meeting in grand style, however, by hosting two cocktail parties and a buffet dinner.

Many of the members had rooms at the Richardson Springs Resort, east of the airport. Warren Carleton, being one of those assigned to Richardson Springs, reported that only one in seven residing there had a bath or shower in their room. Those without had to make reservations with the lucky ones for a bath. The Richardson lobby was the place to make the bathing arrangements, and there was a steady stream of guys with soap, towel, key, and drink in hand, headed upstairs to a room "with".

There was only one conference held in Chico, that being 1950.

The Conference was held in Redding and Anderson in 1951-56, 1958-60, 1962-63, odd numbered years from 1975 through 2005, and from 2006 to date.

The conference was held in Sacramento in 1957, 1961, 1964-1967, 1969, 1971, and 1973.

The conference was held in Fresno in 1968.

The conference was held in Reno on even numbered years from 1970 through 2004.

1951: A member was appointed Housing Chairman to procure rooms for the members, and this procedure continued through the 1956 Conference.

The Board of Directors was deeply interested in several problems and President Grimmett appointed standing committees in Conservation and Forestry, Highway and Trucking, and Safety.

The Equipment Committee added a floor show. A dance closed out the entertainment.

1952: The theme "For Good Will and Good Logging" was selected and this has been our Conference motto to this

day.

To encourage spouses to attend the Conference, the Equipment Committee hosted the first ladies luncheon. The cocktail event was now called the Log Pond and the dinner event the Timberee. The Timberee was continued through 1963. The Conference ended Saturday afternoon with a "bull of the woods" barbecue at the Fair Grounds.

Later in 1952 the Conference hosted a newsman's tour of the timber area about Redding. Nine people from newspapers, TV, and radio toured the woods operations over a two-day period. As the result of the tour and the reports filed by the guests, the Directors established the Sierra-Cascade Logging Conference Forest News Award. The Award was an invitation for news people to report on any category related to trees, logging, forest products manufacturing, forest management, etc. With this competition, the Directors anticipated increased public exposure and publicity for the industry. The forest news award competition continued through the 1963-64 Conference year. The directors then ended the program as the interest and competition had waned, and turned instead to professional publicity.

1953: The dates of the conference were changed from the first to the second week of February. The change was to dodge a housing problem. The Red Bluff Bull Sale was also in early February and on occasion, the dates for the Sales and the Conference were the same. When this occurred, housing was in short supply. So a deal was struck to schedule the Bull sale for the first week of February and the Conference for the second week.

New features for this Conference were the truck drivers dinner. This was an attempt of the owners to impress on the drivers good safety measures and good relations with the users of public roads. There were 232 men in attendance.

The Log Pond cocktail parties became the Sawdust Bowls and the Saturday lunch became the Cookhouse Lunch. The Cookhouse Lunch was continued through 1959.

Another feature was a newsman's tour. Nine persons from the news media, including newspaper, radio, and TV accepted invitations for a two-day tour through the Pine logging operations. As a result of the tour, the Sierra-Cascade Forest News Award was set up. This was open to the newspapers of the general region and the stories were to cover almost any category relating to trees, logging, manufacture, management, etc. The prizes were \$300.00 first, \$150.00 second, and \$50.00 third.

1954: During the Conference, L. J. Carr, President of Forest Products Research Society, excited everyone with his predictions about the future forest products industry. News reporters went wild with his description of the industry by 2004; Carr claimed research and science confirmed his predictions. His report inspired one reporter to coin the term of "atomic lumbermen" for future forest products industrialists. It is of more than casual interest that many of the projects mentioned are now common practice.

A new feature added was the Loggerama in which most of the exhibited machinery was put to work on the race track at the Fairgrounds. The most exciting was probably the loading crane that over-turned at the live demonstration. The Loggerama was continued through the 1957 Conference, and then discontinued after being rained out for three consecutive years.

The First Forest News Award Contest was held and awards presented.

1955: Jack Berry was the Secretary-Treasurer for the last time.

There were organization changes, with the formation of an Executive Committee and, on the equipment side, the formation of the Equipment Committee and supportive Advisory Committee.

For the first time resolutions of the Conference position on issues were drafted and approved.

The new Equipment Committee started soliciting contributions for support of the entertainment, and continued hosting the Sawdust Bowls, Timberee, and ladies luncheon.

1956: L. D. Wambold was Secretary-Treasurer for the first time and was continually reelected through the 1979-80 Conference year.

1957: California Governor "Goody" Knight gave the welcoming address at the breakfast.

1959: Featured "Lausmann's Lousy Loggers Band" for the first time at the Sierra-Cascade Logging Conference. They continued to be part of the Conference through 1976 when the band broke up. After that band members belonging to the Sierra-Cascade Logging Conference reorganized and continued to perform as "Lausmann's Lousy Loggers Band" through the 1982 Conference.

1961: Governor Pat Brown gave the welcoming address.

1962: It was the first and only Conference in which there was no machinery show.

The first time the Program sessions were held in the Cascade Theater.

It was the first time a speaker went on to become the President of the United States. Richard Nixon, former Vice-President of the United States, spoke at one of the Friday morning session

1963: This marked the first conference in which a Logger's Queen was programmed.

The elimination of the formal banquet which was replaced by a smorgasbord

1964: Robert Jensen, Fred E. Barnett Co. was Equipment Chairman. Bob is the only person in the organization that has served both the Equipment and Lumber Production industries. (In 2004 when the two boards merged this changed)

This was the final year of the News Awards.

1965: The 1965 Conference was originally scheduled to be in Redding-Anderson but some of the buildings at the

Shasta District Fair Grounds were not available. Temporary structures could be set up but this wasn't agreeable with the Equipment Committee. The conference was moved the 1965 Conference to Sacramento. Support was solid from the Sacramento Convention Bureau and, on short notice. Roy Stillwell, Tenco Tractor, agreed to lead and organize a Sacramento Equipment Committee. His "Greatest Show on Worth" was one of the best equipment shows the Conference has had.

During the conference the ground was broken at the new Cal-Expo grounds. Several trees were planted at the new location by dignitaries of the State and the Lumber Industry. The financial support structure was changed from voluntary assessments based on lumber and logging production, to \$25.00 for logging and trucking firms, and \$50 for lumber and wood processing companies.

1966: A new feature was the "Breakfast at the Conference," the first gin fizz breakfast, and featured the first "Tournament of Tall Timber Tales."

The Equipment Committee furnished additional entertainment by bringing in the World Champion Lady Log Roller to the pond at Woodlake Inn. She spent little time in dunking President Crane and Secretary Wambold.

1967: The Equipment Committee introduced door prizes at the Breakfast. For the first time complimentary cocktails at the Sawdust Bowls were limited to three per person.

A pet project of Bob Bough, W. V. Morgan Company, was to have the Equipment Committee sponsor scholarships. As the result of Bob's drive, the 1967 Equipment Committee started an annual scholarship fund for a qualified forestry student at the University of California, Berkeley, or Oregon State University; the initial award was \$500.00. The Conference was asked to administer the program and Ray Crane was appointed Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, to establish the rules for application and select the scholarship winners.

The Equipment Committee incorporated as a non-profit organization, with officers and a board of directors. George McClean, Standard Oil Company, as the first President. The corporation stated that the directors represented various areas within the scope of the Sierra-Cascade Logging Conference; that each local equipment committee would be responsible for producing the annual show and related events if the Conference is in their area.

1968: The first two Forestry Scholarships were awarded.

The Sierra-Cascade Logging Conference was incorporated August 26, 1968. The Executive Committee was reactivated, becoming responsible for finance, policy and developing recommendations for the Board of Directors.

The fiscal year was gradually changed to end on June 30.

The Executive Committee prepared a budget one year in advance.

The dues structure was changed and all fees were increased: Individual Memberships from \$10.00 to \$15.00; Firm Memberships for wood processing firms from \$50.00 to \$75.00; Firm Memberships for logging and trucking firm from \$25.00 to \$35; all Firm Memberships included one Individual Membership.

Directors no longer represented Districts. In replacing Districts, the Board would act to maintain a broad representation of the entire Sierra-Cascade area.

Humboldt State University and the University of Nevada, Reno were added to the list of universities whose students could apply for the Forestry Scholarship.

1969: At the Breakfast, California Governor Ronald Reagan welcomed the loggers, and in turn was presented with an axe.

Another honored official at this Conference was Ivy Baker Priest, who spoke at the Ladies Day event. Mrs. Priest was the former Treasurer of the United States and, at this time, was Treasurer of the State of California.

Later in the year, Cal-Expo offered to make a parcel of land at the fair site available to the lumber industry and approached the Conference with the offer. After consideration, the Directors asked for time to study the offer.

1970: This first trip into Reno was a move that everyone was anxious to try, but was more anxious to play it safe and let someone else get their feet wet. President Berridge softened the town up a little in November by delivering to the City of Reno an 80-foot Christmas tree.

Following the 1970 Conference, the newsletter, now called the News Log, was published five times up to the 1972 Conference. Another publicity effort was a joint endeavor by the Directors and the Equipment Committee in contracting for professional publicity with the Evanson Public Relations Company, for a cost of \$1,500 for each party. The effort failed to increase the 1971 registration and the contract was not renewed.

1971: The Directors concluded the agreement with Cal-Expo officials for the development of the parcel of land on the fair site for a forest center. In the following year a design for the development of the parcel was completed. The project was completed in 1978. Administratively, the project was set up as a non-profit organization and called The California Forest Center. Ray Crane, Crane Mills, was appointed to handle the financial requirements for starting construction.

The Conference was active during the year preparing to break the ground for the new Forest Center.

1973: The Cal-Expo forest center project got off the ground during the year. A creditable showing was made in the construction. Approximately 85 per cent of the finance has been received from contributions from the members and supporting companies.

As a publicity feature the Conference and Equipment Committee purchased 1,250 of the "Lousy Loggers" LP records which were passed out with the paid registrations.

1974: The first presentation of memorials

On Saturday the members and the community were entertained by the "Loggerama-, a new substitution, for the

"Logger's Holiday."

Special recognition was given by President Jensen to Dan Gellermann whose name was the only one on the records that had paid his membership for twenty-five consecutive years.

1975: The Conference returned to Redding-Anderson in 1975 "Big Time." Lou Wilson, Page Equipment Sales, headed the Equipment Committee that exceeded all expectations by overflowing the exhibit space.

The Forest Center was completed and was scheduled to be used during the 1976 State Fair.

1976: The original "Lousy Loggers Band" disbanded following this Conference, after having performed for the Sierra-Cascade Logging Conference for 18 consecutive years. Those band members in the Sierra-Cascade Logging Conference, however, reorganized as "Lausmann's Lousy Loggers Band" and continued to perform for the Sierra-Cascade.

1977: Several changes were made in the program, with the President giving his address at the Gin Fizz Breakfast, opening the equipment show Thursday morning, having a Past President's Axe Throw contest prior to the Thursday afternoon program and had a Super Sawdust Bowl Friday night.

1980: The Equipment Committee, for the first time in the history of the Conference, charged for Ladies Day.

This was Wampy's last Conference as Secretary-Treasurer. On June 20, 1980 Wampy turned the job over to Verne Fredrickson, who became the third Secretary-Treasurer of the Conference and, subsequently, was given the title of Secretary-Manager.

1982: The forestry scholarships were changed to the Wampy Wambold Awards.

1983: The cost for individual membership was increased from \$20.00 to \$25.00. The previous change in the membership fee was in 1974.

After the conference Dorene Curry replaced Verne Fredrickson as Secretary-Manager.

1984: The Scholarship program was blessed by substantial changes, due to the Equipment Committee wishing to provide opportunities for students in the service field. The two forestry scholarships remained unchanged, while the three forest technicians' awards were increased from \$250.00 to \$500.00 each; these were all Wampy Wambold Scholarships. Added were three service technician scholarships; one for \$1,000.00 and two for \$500.00. These latter three scholarships were funded by the Equipment Committee.

1985: The Dolbeer Steam Donkey is displayed at the conference for the first time.

1987: Secretary-Manager Dorene Curry resigned after the Conference and was replaced by Warren Carleton.

1988: The scholarship program is terminated.

1989: The registration totaled 1,228, which was a Redding-Anderson record.

1990: The registration of 1,586 was a conference record.

After the conference Warren Carleton resigned as Secretary-Manager and was replaced by Roy Berridge.

1991: The Conference had its first "Education Day." The event was organized by Jeannie Tomascheski and supported by Gene Dawson. Three hundred grammar school students were escorted through the equipment exhibits.

The first Logger of The Year award went to Dick Pland, Fiberboard Corporation.

An additional "first" for the Conference was an auction of donated items, held after the breakfast, with the proceeds going to Trees Are for People. The auction raised \$14,200 and, after deducting the cost for Education Day, netted \$12,358.00.

A new "wrinkle" was added this year with a Trucker's Seminar in a building off-site for truckers. The thrust behind this seminar was to encourage truckers to attend the Conference, register at a reduced fee, receive some valuable information, and become a staunch supporter of the Conference. Ron Voss, Sierra Pacific Industries, spearheaded the seminar.

A new membership category was established, called Crew Member, restricted to employees of logging, trucking, or road building firms.

1992: The Conference raffled a pickup on the final day of the Conference.

1994: The Equipment Committee established awards for outstanding contributions to the conference while working as a member of the Equipment Committee. These were the Jim Gordon award for a member in Sacramento, Boyd Peterson award for a member in Reno and John Jarrett award for a member in Redding. Effective with the merge in 2004 it became the John Jarrett award.

1995: There was an "In Woods Logging Seminar." The elementary school students were the first visitors to the live mechanized logging demonstration. Over 300 fourth grade students under the guidance of Jeanne Tomascheski and Gene Dawson toured the live logging demonstration near Shingletown that was directed by Mike Mitzel, Sierra Pacific Industries, and members of the California Licensed Foresters Association.

Secretary-Manager Roy Berridge retired on April 1, 1995 and Bill Dennison was selected to replace Roy.

1996: Under the direction of Kathleen Duysen, the Conference sponsored the first Education Day for Reno elementary school students. The students were escorted through the equipment displays and a couple of live demonstrations, by private industry foresters.

For the first time a woman was appointed to the Board of Directors. This was Jeanne Tomascheski.

1997: Appointment of the Education Fund Distribution Committee for determining the allocation of education

funds.

The education fund auction was changed to a Friday dinner/dance instead of at the Gin Fizz Breakfast. The auction netted \$47,037.00.

The Ladies Day Luncheon became the Ladies Day Brunch.

The formation of a joint loggers and equipment committee named the Joint Goals and Strategy Committee which met three times by November to seek agreement on action needed to develop the conference "Vision For The Future".

1998: Increased the Individual Members and the Firm Membership fees by \$10.00 each. The new levels of membership investment became \$40.00 for Individuals and \$60.00 for Firms. The Crew Membership was discontinued.

The Past President's Axe Throwing event was named the Mike Balcom Memorial Past President's Axe Throw, and a memorial axe will be rotated among the annual winners.

The dinner/auction/dance was named the Lumberjack Banquet/Auction/Dance.

1999- SCLC 50th Anniversary: In recognition of the 50th Anniversary, a reception sponsored by Sierra-Pacific Industries honored Past Presidents and Equipment Committee Past Presidents. Those Past Presidents in attendance included Warren Carleton, Elmer Zimmerman, Glen Duysen, Larry Duysen, Ray Crane, Dick Pland, Jim Gilmore, Ed Walker, Bill Dennison, Jim McCollum, Jerry Evans, Joe Griggs, Joe Martin, Doug Whitaker, Ed Maloney, Reno Quilici, Ron Monk, Lowell Jones, Emmett Baugh, Roy Berridge, Steve Wiard, Tim Lynch, Frank Stewart, Jerry Boyer, Dick Roseberry, Tom Wulfert, Gene Dawson, Bob Jensen, Gary Shaffer.

This was also a memorable time for Joe Lausmann to gather with some of the Lausmann's Lousy Logger Band members: Lowell Jones, Rex Stevens, Gene Picket, Glen Duysen, and Duke McQueen

Three New events were featured: Steve Wiard and Stacey Martin co-chaired a Silent Auction that supplemented the always-successful auction during the Lumberjack Banquet; Falk Locomotive from Humboldt Historic Park, Eureka, CA. operated on a short track and; Wild Things Wildlife Show.

For the first time, Loggers and Equipment Committee entered into financial agreement on the conference advertisement book. (See R&D for details).

2000: SCLC Board of Directors has set education of our youth as a high priority for our conference.

The Sierra-Cascade Logging Conference, Inc. and the Sierra-Cascade Conference Equipment Committee, Inc. worked jointly to develop a Mission Statement which was passed by both boards:

2001: From this date on conference membership was not required to attend the special workshops.

The Falk Locomotive from the Fort Humboldt Historic Park, Eureka, CA. was set up during the conference.

2002: The First Annual Roy Derek Berridge Memorial Award was presented to Congressman Wally Herger of the California 2nd district for his co-sponsorship of the Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group Act of 2000.

2003: The first time Logging Competition and Exhibitions featuring Jim Taylor, Redding CA, International Logging Contest Champion (inducted into the Shasta County Sports Hall of Fame) drew large crowds. Students from University of California; San Luis Obispo; Humboldt State University and University of Nevada, Reno competed in various logging events.

The period 2002-03 was the year of major SCLC change that had been chartered since 1998 when the board spent considerable time developing the "Vision for the Future" workshop of the Loggers and Equipment Committee board members. The resulting Joint Goals and Strategy Committee ultimately led to the understanding that the conference will be enhanced under one board of directors. This led to the 2004 merger of the Sierra-Cascade Logging Conference, Inc. (1950) and the Sierra-Cascade Logging Conference Equipment Committee, Inc. (1967)

2004: This was the first conference held under just one board of directors since 1967

For various reasons the directors agreed that the conference would no longer alternate between Reno and Redding, but schedule future events in Redding Convention Center and Shasta District Fairgrounds.

2005: Frank Muse, owner Muse Trucking and Northern Lights Energy, Redding, CA became the first SCLC president under the newly organized SCLC, Inc. to have been chosen from the group formerly called Sierra-Cascade Logging Conference Equipment Committee, Inc.

The first Media Day, or Logger For A Day that provided opportunity for Virginia Reeter (The Valley Post), Rich Vahlquist (Channel 24), Robert Christopher (KQMS), Mike Quinn (KXLR) and others to compete in logging events.

Executive Director Bill Dennison stated that the new interaction with Shasta's Builder's Exchange for the 2006 conference should be a positive, monumental step for both organizations.

2006: The name of the conference was changed to Sierra-Cascade Forest Products and Equipment Exposition; still under the sponsorship of Sierra-Cascade Logging Conference, Inc.

It was best attendance for many years because we combined our efforts with Shasta Builders Exchange (SBE) beginning in 2005 based on the need to diversify the conference.

The conference success was bittersweet, because the sudden passing of Pat Dennison, assistant executive director for the past 12 years has tugged on everyone's heart. Bill and Pat had announced their retirement as Executive Director at the 2006 Spring Meeting to be effective at the end of that fiscal year.

CANstruction was a new event and the first time it has been held north of Sacramento. It holds national competition where local engineering firms compete to construct various architectural marvels out of canned goods. CANstruction feeds the hungry with nutritious foods while showcasing engineering talents. Their moto is "One can make a difference."

Appreciation of public participation was shown by keeping the Saturday Equipment Show open until 5 p.m. This required the very efficient Move-Out crew to stay late to remove the equipment.

Nadine Bailey was elected as the next years Executive Director.

2008: The Backhoe Rodeo and Truck Rodeo were new events to the conference.

2010: Mike Phil, from the TV show Axmen is the keynote speaker, and participates in the remainder of the conference, including meeting with the media.

Sarah Palin, Governor of Alaska, spoke on Monday the week of the conference, at the Redding Convention Center.

For the first time the Equipment Show and programs were held at the Redding Civic Auditorium.

2011: For the first time in SCLC history the Board of Directors decided, due to financial concerns, we would operate without an Executive Director. Those duties would be split up and handled by volunteers. This was in place for two years and dramatically helped out financial situation.

In May the Sierra-Cascade Environmental and Resource Fund was incorporated. This is a 501(c)(3) corporation whose mission is to obtain funding for the Educational and History Programs of the Sierra-Cascade Logging Conference.

2012: The first Past Presidents Breakfast was held, turnout has increased every year since.

The Equipment Show and Programs returned to the Shasta District Fairgrounds in Anderson.

2013: For the first time Pro-Logger Credits were offered for being a member and attending certain programs and the equipment show.

The Jim McCollum Memorial Plaque was introduced. This is to honor our deceased Past Presidents and others who extraordinarily served the conference.

At the May Board of Directors meeting the position of Business Director was established in lieu of an Executive Director. Monte Adams volunteered for the position and was approved by the Board.

2014: The conference had its first Female President, Kathie Muse, owner of Northern Lights Energy, Inc. of Redding.

This is the first year the Jim McCollum Memorial Plaque is displayed at the conference.

2015: At the May Board of Directors meeting the Business Manager was changed to Executive Director with Monte Adams filling that position.

To read the entire 25 year, 50 year, or 1999-2010 click on the links below.