

The First Twenty-Five Years

By Lloyd D. "Wampy" Wambold

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 writer attended both Conferences. The first Conference was held at Klamath Falls, Oregon. As I recall 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. The next year following Klamath Falls. This Conference consisted of a program only. As I recall there were distractions from the program, as there were only 7 people at the meeting I attended.

That was the end of the Pine Logging Conference.

In 1946 and 1947 Mr. Whisnant and Mr. Cornwall were busy trying to reactivate the defunct Pine Logging Conference. They had enlisted the services of a young man by the name of Carwin Woolley who was to go on and become the Executive Vice President and Manager of the Pacific Logging Congress.

I remember a meeting in Chico, California on a hot midsummer day in 1947 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.

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

The first Conference was held in Chico, California in February 2 through February 4, 1950.

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

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. The rain was excessive during the period of the Conference and the Sacramento Valley was inundated by floodwater.

The Conference moved to Redding and Anderson in February 1951. Robert Grimmett, Pine Logging Co., was President, Jack Berry was Secretary-Treasurer, Ed Gurney was Equipment Chairman, and Bill Berry was Program Chairman.

The program theme was "Can we Balance our Books and our Forests?" This was another of the Rigger Round table type of program.

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 1952 Conference was held in Redding and Anderson January 31, Feb. 1 and 2, 1952. Herb McMahan, Ralph L. Smith Lumber Co. was President. Jim Garrett, Collins Pine Co, was Program Chairman. The theme "For Good Will and Good Logging" was selected.

In this program there were several smaller meetings which worked over certain topics and then brought the highlights to the general meeting for debate and further consideration. Subjects treated were Applied Forestry, Hauling and Roads, Ponds and Sawmills, Loading, Fall Buck and Limb, and Yarding. Ed Gurney was again Equipment Chairman complete with a fine show and the best entertainment for the loggers and their ladies.

James Garrett, Collins Pine Co was President in 1953. It will be noted that the dates were in February 12, 13, and 14. It was held at Redding and Anderson, California.

The Red Bluff Bull Sale was also in early February; on occasion the dates had overlapped which caused a shortage of sleeping accommodations in the valley. The livestock industry settled for the first weekend of February and the Logging industry for the second weekend.

Louis Simpson, Southern Oregon Conservation and Tree Farm Assoc. was Program Chairman. The theme was "Cooperation for Forest Production and Reproduction." Bill Sullivan, Sullivan and Crowe, was Equipment Chairman.

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. Another feature of the year 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.

Also 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.

Henry Ghiglieri, J. T., McDonald Logging Co. was the President of the 1954 Conference and the Conference was held February 18-20 at Redding and Anderson. Ted Batchelor, U.S. Plywood Corp. was Program Chairman. The theme was "Facing the new era in Forest Production." At this program L. J. Carr, President of Forest Products research society presented a paper which forecast many things which were unheard of to take place by the year 2004. It is of more than casual interest that many of the projects mentioned are now common practice. Dave Craft, Moore Equipment was Equipment Chairman. A new feature added by Dave was the Loggerama in which most of the exhibited machinery was put to work on the racetrack at the Fairgrounds. The most exciting was probably the loading crane that over-turned at the live demonstration.

In the First Forest News Award Contest, top prize of \$300.00 was won by George Brand, Redding Record Searchlight. Second prize of \$150.00 was won by David Pearlman, San Francisco Chronicle and third prize was \$50.00 and was won by Maxwell Thayer of the Rogue River Times.

The 1955 Conference was held at Redding and Anderson on February 17-19. W. S. Wickstrom, Byles Jamison Lumber Co. was President. Emmerson Smith, Caldor Lumber Co. was Program Chairman. The theme was "Men in the Woods-the key to our Future." One of the features of this program was the big debate "Resolved anything the company can do, the Gyppo can do better." Frank Gerlinger, Gerlinger Steel and Supply was Equipment Chairman. There was a second Loggerama as well as top exhibits and the finest of entertainment furnished by the Equipment People.

The News Award was won by Mel Gaynon, Marysville Yuba City Appeal Democrat; second, Howard Watkins, Santa Rosa Press Democrat, third James Saulsberry, San Bernardino Sun.

Another Newsman's Tour was conducted in 1955. There were six representatives of the press and tele vision on this tour and twenty-six guides.

Lafe Stephens, Weyerhaeuser Timber Co. was President of the 1956 Conference which was held February 16-18 at Redding and Anderson. L. D. Wambold was Secretary-Treasurer for the first time and has been continually reelected since that time.

Myron Wall of Wall and Larson Foresters was Program Chairman. The theme was "Logging with the New Look." Frank Gerlinger, Gerlinger Steel & Supply served his second term as Equipment Chairman.

The third Loggerama was a huge success and Equipment People are to be commended on the unusual entertainment furnished which included three Sawdust Bowls, Ladies Luncheon and Style Show. The Paul Bunyan Lunch Saturday noon at the Fairgrounds and the Floor Show at the Timberee.

Garth Sanders, Santa Rosa Press Democrat, won first money of \$300.00 on an article dealing with logging safety. Second place and \$150.00 was won by Bill Jenkins, Klamath Falls Herald and News on his series of editorials on conservation and utilization. Third place and \$50.00 was won by Frank Kiefer, Redding Record Searchlight, for his series of articles dealing with the Charlie Creek Dire and a fourth prize of \$50.00 was awarded to Bill Fader, Redding Record Searchlight for his series of articles dealing with the lumber outlook in Shasta County.

In February 14, through 16, 1957 the Conference was held at the State Fairgrounds, Sacramento. James F. Coonan, Trinity Alps Lumber Company was President. Sam Bryan Calaveras Land and Timber Corp. was Program Chairman. The Conference theme was "Young Growth and Young Ideas"

John Weber, Weaver Tractor Co. was Equipment Chairman. This was the first Equipment Display that was practically all under cover and was a pleasant experience. The entertainment included two Sawdust Bowls, Thursday Noon Luncheon and Style Show for the Ladies, the Floor Show for the Friday Night Banquet and the Paul Bunyan Luncheon at Saturday noon.

The Saturday Loggerama was a success.

The first place and \$300.00 cash award was won by Fred Kirstowsky, San Francisco Examiner in the Annual News Award Contest. Second place and \$150.00 was won by Jack Robertson, Chico Enterprise Record, and Third prize of \$50.00 was won by Garth Sanders, Santa Rosa Press Democrat. Kirstowsky gained top honors with a series of articles covering overload problems in the Redwoods. Robertson wrote of the advanced forest management on Diamond Match Timber Lands. Sanders article dealt with fighting a forest fire.

The 1958 Conference was held at Redding and Anderson February 13, 14, and 15. Harry B. Oatman, Trinity Alps Lumber Co. was President. The Program Chairman was Bill Beaty, Shasta Forest Co. The Theme was "The Logger, His 1958 Problems, Practices, Profits, People."

Paul Droscher, Droscher Equipment Co., was Program Chairman. There was a downpour of rain Saturday morning and the Loggerama was called off. The Equipment Committee came up with their usual high performance of entertainment for the loggers and their ladies.

Larry Coffin, Redding Record Searchlight won both first and second place in the News Award Contest, and a total check of \$450.00. His winning article dealt with the decline of the lumber marked in 1957. His second place article dealt with the trials and tribulations that he and his family went through going to the mountains to cut a free Christmas tree. Helen Bottel, Grants Pass Courier, took third award and \$50.00 on an article dealing with an arrow factory.

The 1959 Conference was held in Redding and Anderson February 12-14. Harry Russell; U.S. Plywood Corp. was President. Ralph Andree, U.S. Plywood Corp was Program Chairman. The theme was "Logging from Ox-Team to Jet Stream."

Ray Lowry, Lowry Equipment Co. was Equipment Chairman. The rain again washed out the Loggerama, the Equipment Committee measured up to their usual high performance in entertainment in spite of a depressed business year.

Garth Sanders, Redding Record Searchlight won first place in the News Award for his article entitled "Lumber Industry Hasn't Learned." He pointed out our many points of weakness and the guilt complex of which we were so self-conscious. Peggy Walsh, Siskiyou Daily News won second on a three-part story of a Christmas Tree farm. Third place was won by Edger Foss.

The 1960 Conference was held in Redding and Anderson February 11, 12, and 13. Kenyon Young, McCloud River Lumber Co. was President. His Program Chairman was Bob Leatherman, McCloud River Lumber Co. and his theme was "Bugs, Burns, and Baloney."

Chuck Crowe, Sullivan and Crowe Equipment Co. was Equipment Chairman. There was no Loggerama this year.

The Equipment Committee furnished two Sawdust Bowls, the Ladies Luncheon on Friday and the prizes for the Ladies Bingo Party on Friday afternoon, the refreshments for the Timberee party on Friday night and they cooperated with the Asphalt Cowboys in the barbecued beef dinner Friday night.

The News Award was changed this year. There was the small and large Newspaper divisions. The First Award and \$250.00 went to Garth Sanders, Redding Record Searchlight for his report of the Pollard Flat Fire Salvage. Second award and \$50.00 went to Joe Cowley, Medford Mail Tribune for his article on the improvement in the lumber industry.

The large newspaper divisions' first award and \$250.00 was won by Tod Harker, Oakland Tribune for his article on a forest fire near Placerville, and second award and \$50.00 went to Ray Hebert for his article on Logging and Manufacture of wood paper pulp.

The 1961 Conference met at Sacramento for the second time. The President was Elmer Zimmerman, International Paper Co. His Program Chairman was Loren Hollenbeak, Hollenbeak Logging Co. The theme, "Under the Gun in 61."

Bill Morgan Jr., was Chairman of the Equipment Committee, the Equipment Committee displayed, with the exception of one crane, 6 million dollars of equipment under one roof covering 90,000 square feet.

The Entertainment Fund was supported by contributions from seventy-one equipment companies from outside Shasta County and by eighty-one equipment committees and local businesses within the city of Redding.

In the Sierra Cascade News Award, large paper division, first place was won by Jefferson Yohn, San Bernardino Sun with an article on Salvage Logging. Second Award was won by Al Martinez, Oakland Tribune on his article regarding the cramped camping facilities in the public campgrounds in California.

In the small newspaper class Les Shaw, Lake County (Oregon) Examiner won first on a series on Federal timber appraisal and pricing policy. Second place was won by William Sweetland, Klamath Falls Herald and News with an article on scientific forest tree research at Weyerhaeuser Co.

In the News Award competition, Garth Sanders, Redding Record Searchlight won second place in the small paper competition with his analysis of the 1960 lumber slump, and Harvey McGee, Sonora Union Democrat took top honors with his article showing the economic importance of Pickering Lumber Co. to the County. First award in the large newspaper class was won by Jefferson Yohn, San Bernardino Sun with his account of the Salvage war on the Pine Beetle in his area.

The 1962 Conference was held in Redding February 15, and 16. Dave Rogers, Big Bear Timber Co. was President. Dean Solinsky of Frank & Dean Solinsky was Program Chairman. Harry Bates, Standard Oil Co. was Equipment Chairman.

There were several firsts established at this Conference. 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. The Theme was "Out of the Stew in 62."

It was the first 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

In the News Award Contest, the large newspaper class was again won by Jefferson Yohn, San Bernardino Sun with his Series of editorials on the importance of the lumber industry.

The small newspaper class was won by Garth Sanders, Redding Record Searchlight, with his article "Anderson Cinderella Town." This made Sanders winner of four first awards, one second award, and one third place award in seven years of competition.

Second place award in the larger newspaper class went to Al Martinez, Oakland Tribune on the fire season of 1961. Second place award in the small newspaper class was won by Les Shaw, Lake County (Oregon) Examiner. Shaw's winning offering was a series of editorials in opposition to the National Wilderness Bill.

The 1963 Conference was held in Redding and Anderson on February 14-16. Jack S. Berry, Jack S. Berry Lumber Co. presided. His program Chairman was Tom Taylor, American Forest Products Corp. The theme was "Out of the Clouds and back to the Woods." This marked the first conference in which a Logger's Queen was programmed.

Fred Gerlinger Jr., Gerlinger Steel and Supply was Equipment Chairman. Fred provided the tops in a machinery show and entertainment. One of his welcome changes was the elimination of the formal banquet which was replaced by a smorgasbord and dancing to the music of the Lousy Loggers for all members at the Redding Elks Club.

The 1964 Conference was held at the State Fairgrounds Sacramento on February 13 through 15. This Conference was presided over by Vincent Bousquet, Weyerhaeuser Co. His Program Chairman was Ray Crane, Crane Mills. The theme was "If I had My Way."

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.

Lausmann's Lousy Logger Band performed at both Sawdust Bowls Wednesday and Thursday nights. The Equipment Committee produced top entertainment including a banquet on Friday night.

In the News Award Contest the large newspaper class was won by Ed Reynolds, San Francisco Examiner with an article on Pine Beetle Losses to California Timberlands, Second award was won by Lou Jobst Long Beach Independent Press with a story of Pulpwood from stump to customer.

In the small newspaper class, Les Shaw, Lake County (Oregon) Examiner won first on an article favoring multiple use forestry over wilderness areas. Bob Pentzer Chico Enterprise Record, won second with three articles on fire prevention.

This was the final year of the News Awards as the project was terminated by vote of the Board of Directors on April 11, 1964.

The 1965 Conference was held in Sacramento, February 11-13. The President was Warren Carleton, American Forest Products Corp. The Program Chairman was Harold Anderes, Sequoia Forest Ind. The theme was "Choppers to Cheeze Blocks the Mechanics of Logging."

The Equipment Committee Chairman was Roy Stilwell, Tenco Tractor Co. There was an outstanding exhibit of machinery and excellent entertainment was furnished to the loggers and their ladies.

The ground was broken at this conference at the new Cal-Expo grounds. Several trees were planted at the new location highlighted by Clarence Azavedo planting the first tree at the new site with a golden shovel. Other dignitaries of the State and the Lumber Industry were to plant trees also. The Lousy Logger Band played for the occasion.

The 1966 Conference was held at the California State Fairgrounds February 10, 11, and 12. Ray Crane, Crane Mills was President. Jack Wolfe, Weyerhaeuser Co. was Program Chairman. The theme was "A Public Trust, Tree Farming and Good Logging." This program was dedicated to the twenty-fifth anniversary of the American Tree Farm System.-

A new feature of this Conference was the Gin Fizz Breakfast on opening morning and the Tournament of Tall Timber Tales.

The Equipment Committee was under the general Chairmanship of Max Christensen, E. H. Edwards Co. As an extra feature, 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. This Conference had a paid registration of 838 which was up from 755 on the preceding year. This trend was to continue upward to the present time.

The 1967 Conference was held at the State Fairgrounds on February 16, 17, and 18. David Williams, U. S. Plywood Corp. was President. Program Chairman was Roy Berridge, Diamond International Corp. The theme was "The New Look in Logging." The paid registration at this Conference was 928 which was a new record.

George McClean, Standard Oil Co. of Calif. was General Chairman of the Equipment Committee. This was a smooth running and goes places concern.

The Equipment Committee set up a \$500.00 per year Scholarship Fund and deposited it with the Conference to pay a \$500.00 scholarship to a student of forestry at University of California Berkeley or Oregon State College Corvallis. Since that time Humboldt State College has been added to the list of accredited schools.

The 1968 Conference was held in Fresno on February 15, 16, and 17. Thomas L. Taylor, American Forest Products was President. The Program Chairman was Ed Norby, Norby Lumber Co. The theme was "Another Era-Another Challenge."

Del Dixon, Quinn Company was the General Chairman of the Equipment Committee. George McClean was the first President after incorporation.

The first two students were in school this year with Ernest F. Wilson of Oregon State College and Steven M. Mahoney at University of California Berkeley. Each received \$500.00.

During the year another press tour was taken in the Mother Lode County. There were twenty members of the Radio, Press, Television and Legislators and twenty-six people from the timber industry which made the tour.

The 1969 Conference was held at Sacramento at the New Cal-Expo grounds. Lowell Jones, Lowell N. Jones Logging, was President. His Program Chairman was Tom McDonald, Boise Cascade Corp. The theme was "Grappling with Small Logs."

Robert Bough, W. V. Morgan Co. was General Chairman of the Equipment Committee.

There was one \$500.00 scholarship awarded to Roy Brewer of Oregon State University during the year. It is noted that the University of Nevada is also an eligible school for Sierra-Cascade Scholarships.

During July President Jones put on a field trip in the Klamath Falls area for the news media. This was a very pleasant one-day trip.

There were several trees planted on the new Cal-Expo grounds by State and timber dignitaries.

The 1970 conference was held in Reno, Nevada February 12, 13, 14. Roy Berridge, Diamond National Corp. was President. Bill Berry, Kimberly-Clark Corp. was Program Chairman. His theme was "The 70's - Rough Skidding for the Independent Logger?" Bill Berry's Father was Program Chairman of the first two Conferences and like his father, he was an expert in handling the Rigger's Round Table.

Boyd J. (Pete) Petersen, Truck Parts and Equipment was the General Chairman and Robert Bogh was President of the Equipment Committee.

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. This Conference topped all others with a paid membership of 1,046.

The 1971 Conference was held in Sacramento at Cal-Expo. Harold Anderes, Sequoia Forest Industries was President, Ed Walker, American Forest Products was Program Chairman. His theme was "Up in the Air in 72."

Vern Fredrickson was General Chairman of the Equipment Committee. Robert Bogh was President.

The two \$500.00 scholarships for 1971 went to Guy Surian, Humboldt State College and to Martin Frank attending Oregon State University. The Conference joined with the Equipment Committee in producing two issues of the News Log. The Conference joined with the Equipment Committee in a publicity venture of approximately 1,500 dollars each. This publicity failed to increase the membership. The Logger's Holiday was chaired by John Golsie and the competitive events included ax throwing, front-end loading, choker setting, and hand chopping.

In 1972 the Conference was held in Reno, on February 10, 11, 12, James W. Fisher, J. W. Fisher Logging Co. was President. His Program Chairman was William N. Dennison, Western Lumber Mgrs. His Theme was "The Times - They are a Changin."

Joe Anxo was General Chairman of the Equipment Committee. Dewey Mansfield, Marsden Advertising was President.

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

Gary Wicks was awarded a \$500.00 scholarship at Oregon State University and Richard Harris was awarded a \$500.00 scholarship at the University of California. \$250 Scholarships were awarded to John B. Brown and Dan A. Young of Oregon Technical institute, Klamath Falls.

The news log came out with three issues during the year. The big publicity venture with the professionals was dropped and handled by Conference Directors and the Reno Chamber of Commerce.

Paid registration this year reached an unheard of record of 1,100 which was a record that was supposed to last for all time and did until the Conference returned to Reno in 1974.

In 1973 The Conference was held at Cal-Expo Sacramento on February 8, 9, and 10. Ed Norby, Norby Lumber Co. was President. Jack Dozier, American Forest Products Corp. was Program Chairman. The Program theme was "Logging from the Loggers Viewpoint" Jim Gordon, Clark Lift West was General Equipment Chairman, and Roy Beardall, Standard Oil Co. of Calif. was President of the Equipment Committee.

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.

Scholarships of \$500.00 each were awarded to Richard Harris, University of California, Berkeley and to Lawrence Sommers, University of California Humboldt. One \$500.00 scholarship award resulted in a tie, and \$250.00 scholarships were awarded to Craig Yancey, University of California Humboldt and to Howard Thornton, Oregon State University.

There were three forest technician awards of \$250.00 which went to William Rasband, College of the Redwoods, Eureka, and to Karen Burkdoll and Steven Bauer both of Lassen College, Susanville.

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.

The weather was very rainy for the Saturday "Logger Holiday." The arena was too wet for the loading and skidding contests. The axe throw, choker set, and hand chop events were ran off. Jim Taylor, J. W. Fisher Logging Co. won first place in all three events.

The paid membership at Sacramento was 940.

The 1974 Conference was held at Reno, Nevada, February 7, 8, 9. Robert Jensen, Cooper's Mill, Inc. was President of this Silver Anniversary of the Sierra-Cascade Logging Conference, Glen Duysen, Sierra Forest Products was Program Chairman. The theme was "Twenty Five Years of Good Will and Good Logging" It has been just that and a better Theme could not have been chosen.

Jim Mortimore, Nevada General Tire, was Equipment Chairman, and C. I. Mahoney, Pacific Telephone, was President of the Equipment Committee.

Scholarships of \$500.00 each were awarded to James A. Carr Oregon State University and to Miss Carroll Rice University of California at Berkeley.

Scholarships of \$250.00 each were awarded to Charles Singleton and to Ronald Herman of Lassen College, Susanville.

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.

The 1975 Conference will be held in Redding and Anderson on Feb. 6, 7, and 8. Since the Conference met last in Redding a new auditorium has been built, a new hotel-motel system has been built at the strip on Interstate 5, and the Fairgrounds at Anderson has been greatly improved. The people of Redding are enthused and promised the delegates a top Conference when they come back to Redding to start the next 25 years of "Good Will and Good Logging."

It would be impossible to thank and give recognition to the many' thousands of people who have participated to some extent in the Conference over the twenty-five years of its existence.

L. D. Wambold
Secretary-Treasurer