

The Lumber Railroads of Wisconsin: Building and Business

Introduction

The history of logging in Wisconsin is a long and storied one. The first loggers arrived in the state in the early 1800s, and they quickly began to make an impact on the landscape. By the mid-1800s, logging was a major industry in Wisconsin, and it played a vital role in the state's development.

The loggers of Wisconsin were a hardy and resourceful bunch. They worked long hours in difficult conditions, and they often faced danger and hardship. But they also loved their work, and they took pride in the fact that they were playing a role in building the state.

The logging industry in Wisconsin reached its peak in the early 20th century. At that time, there were over

1,000 sawmills operating in the state, and they employed over 100,000 people. The industry played a vital role in the state's economy, and it provided jobs for many people who would otherwise have been unable to find work.

However, the logging industry in Wisconsin also had a significant impact on the environment. The loggers often used unsustainable methods of logging, which resulted in the destruction of forests and the erosion of soil. In addition, the logging industry contributed to the pollution of air and water.

As a result of these concerns, the logging industry in Wisconsin began to decline in the mid-20th century. The number of sawmills in the state fell sharply, and the number of people employed in the industry also declined. However, the industry has continued to play a vital role in the state's economy, and it remains a major employer in many rural areas.

Today, the logging industry in Wisconsin is a much different place than it was in the past. The loggers of today use more sustainable methods of logging, and they are more mindful of the impact of their work on the environment. However, the industry still faces many challenges, including the rising cost of timber and the decline of the paper industry.

Despite these challenges, the logging industry in Wisconsin remains a resilient and vital part of the state's economy. The loggers of today are proud of their work, and they are committed to providing the state with the resources that it needs.

The book "The Lumber Railroads of Wisconsin: Building and Business" tells the story of the logging industry in Wisconsin. It is a comprehensive and well-researched account of the industry's history, impact, and legacy. The book is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the history of Wisconsin, the logging industry, or the environment.

Book Description

"The Lumber Railroads of Wisconsin: Building and Business" is a comprehensive and well-researched account of the logging industry in Wisconsin. It tells the story of the men and women who worked in the woods, the companies that they worked for, and the railroads that transported their logs to market.

The book begins with a brief history of logging in Wisconsin. It then goes on to discuss the construction and operation of the lumber railroads that were built to serve the logging industry. The book also includes a detailed look at the logging camps where the loggers lived and worked.

The book is illustrated with over 200 rare black and white photos. These photos provide a glimpse into the lives of the loggers and the work that they did. They also show the impact that the logging industry had on the landscape of Wisconsin.

"The Lumber Railroads of Wisconsin: Building and Business" is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the history of Wisconsin, the logging industry, or the environment. It is also a fascinating read for anyone who enjoys learning about the people and places that have shaped our world.

The book is divided into 10 chapters, each of which covers a different aspect of the logging industry in Wisconsin. The chapters are:

- Lumbering in Wisconsin
- The Rise of the Lumber Railroads
- The Roddis Lumber & Veneer Co. Railroad
- The Dells & Northeastern Railway
- The Logging Camps
- The Financial Data of the Lumber Railroads
- The Accidents on the Lumber Railroads
- The Employee Recreation on the Lumber Railroads
- The Legacy of the Lumber Railroads

- Conclusion

Each chapter is packed with information and insights. The book is written in a clear and concise style, making it easy for readers to understand the complex issues involved in the logging industry.

"The Lumber Railroads of Wisconsin: Building and Business" is a must-read for anyone who wants to learn more about the history of Wisconsin, the logging industry, or the environment. It is a valuable resource for students, researchers, and anyone else who is interested in this fascinating topic.

Chapter 1: Lumbering in Wisconsin

The history of logging in Wisconsin

The history of logging in Wisconsin is a long and storied one. The first European settlers arrived in the state in the early 1800s, and they quickly began to exploit the vast forests that covered the land. By the mid-1800s, logging was a major industry in Wisconsin, and it played a vital role in the state's development.

The loggers of Wisconsin were a hardy and resourceful bunch. They worked long hours in difficult conditions, and they often faced danger and hardship. But they also loved their work, and they took pride in the fact that they were playing a role in building the state.

The logging industry in Wisconsin reached its peak in the early 20th century. At that time, there were over 1,000 sawmills operating in the state, and they employed over 100,000 people. The industry played a vital role in the state's economy, and it provided jobs

for many people who would otherwise have been unable to find work.

However, the logging industry in Wisconsin also had a significant impact on the environment. The loggers often used unsustainable methods of logging, which resulted in the destruction of forests and the erosion of soil. In addition, the logging industry contributed to the pollution of air and water.

As a result of these concerns, the logging industry in Wisconsin began to decline in the mid-20th century. The number of sawmills in the state fell sharply, and the number of people employed in the industry also declined. However, the industry has continued to play a vital role in the state's economy, and it remains a major employer in many rural areas.

Today, the logging industry in Wisconsin is a much different place than it was in the past. The loggers of today use more sustainable methods of logging, and they are more mindful of the impact of their work on

the environment. However, the industry still faces many challenges, including the rising cost of timber and the decline of the paper industry.

Despite these challenges, the logging industry in Wisconsin remains a resilient and vital part of the state's economy. The loggers of today are proud of their work, and they are committed to providing the state with the resources that it needs.

Chapter 1: Lumbering in Wisconsin

The different types of trees that were logged

The forests of Wisconsin were once home to a wide variety of tree species, each with its own unique characteristics and uses. The most common type of tree logged in Wisconsin was the white pine. White pine trees were tall and straight, with long, clear trunks that were ideal for construction. They were also relatively easy to cut and transport, making them a favorite of loggers.

Other common types of trees that were logged in Wisconsin included red pine, Norway pine, jack pine, hemlock, and spruce. These trees were all used for a variety of purposes, including construction, furniture making, and paper production.

Hardwoods, such as oak, maple, and birch, were also logged in Wisconsin, but they were not as common as softwoods. Hardwoods were more difficult to cut and

transport, and they were often used for specialized purposes, such as making furniture and flooring.

The logging industry in Wisconsin had a significant impact on the state's forests. By the early 20th century, many of the state's original forests had been cleared. This led to a number of problems, including soil erosion, flooding, and a decline in biodiversity.

In recent years, there has been a growing effort to reforest Wisconsin's forests. The state has planted millions of trees, and it is working to protect the remaining old-growth forests.

Today, the forests of Wisconsin are home to a wide variety of tree species, including both softwoods and hardwoods. The state's forests are an important part of the state's economy and environment, and they provide a variety of benefits, including timber, wildlife habitat, and recreation.

* The methods used to log trees

The methods used to log trees in Wisconsin have changed over time. In the early days of logging, trees were felled by hand using axes and saws. This was a slow and dangerous process, and it often resulted in injuries.

In the late 19th century, the introduction of steam-powered logging equipment made it possible to log trees more efficiently. Steam-powered logging machines, such as skidders and loaders, could cut down trees, skid them to the nearest river or railroad, and load them onto trains or barges.

In the early 20th century, the introduction of gasoline-powered logging equipment made it possible to log trees in even more remote areas. Gasoline-powered logging machines, such as bulldozers and chainsaws, could clear large areas of forest quickly and easily.

Today, the logging industry in Wisconsin uses a variety of modern logging equipment, including feller-bunchers, skidders, and log loaders. These machines are used to cut down trees, skid them to the nearest road, and load them onto trucks.

The logging industry in Wisconsin is a highly mechanized industry, and it is able to produce a large amount of timber in a relatively short period of time. However, the use of heavy machinery can also damage the forest environment.

*** The impact of logging on the environment**

The logging industry has had a significant impact on the environment of Wisconsin. The clearing of forests has led to a number of problems, including soil erosion, flooding, and a decline in biodiversity.

Soil erosion is a major problem in Wisconsin. When trees are cleared, the soil is no longer protected from

the wind and rain. This can lead to the formation of gullies and the loss of valuable topsoil.

Flooding is another problem that is caused by logging. When trees are cleared, the water that would normally be absorbed by the forest floor is instead allowed to run off into streams and rivers. This can lead to flooding downstream.

A decline in biodiversity is another problem that is caused by logging. When forests are cleared, the animals that live in those forests lose their habitat. This can lead to a decline in the populations of these animals, and it can also lead to the extinction of some species.

The logging industry in Wisconsin is a major contributor to the state's economy. However, it is important to remember that logging can also have a negative impact on the environment. It is important to find ways to balance the economic benefits of logging with the environmental costs.

Chapter 1: Lumbering in Wisconsin

The methods used to log trees

The loggers of Wisconsin used a variety of methods to log trees, depending on the terrain, the type of trees being logged, and the availability of equipment.

One of the most common methods of logging was the axe. Loggers would use axes to fell trees and then cut them into logs. This was a dangerous and laborious task, and it required a great deal of skill and strength.

Another common method of logging was the crosscut saw. Two loggers would use a crosscut saw to fell trees and then cut them into logs. This was a more efficient method than using an axe, but it was still very labor-intensive.

In the late 19th century, the chainsaw was invented. This made logging much more efficient, and it quickly became the preferred method of felling trees.

Chainsaws were also used to cut logs into smaller pieces, which made them easier to transport.

In addition to axes, crosscut saws, and chainsaws, loggers also used a variety of other tools and equipment. These included skidders, which were used to drag logs to a central location, and loaders, which were used to load logs onto railroad cars or trucks.

The methods used to log trees in Wisconsin changed over time, but the goal always remained the same: to get the logs to market as quickly and efficiently as possible.

The logging industry in Wisconsin was a dangerous and difficult business, but it was also an essential part of the state's economy. The loggers of Wisconsin played a vital role in building the state, and their legacy continues to this day.

The methods used to log trees in Wisconsin had a significant impact on the environment. The clear-

cutting of forests led to soil erosion and water pollution. In addition, the logging industry contributed to the decline of wildlife populations.

In the early 20th century, people began to realize the environmental damage that was being caused by the logging industry. As a result, new laws were passed to regulate the industry and protect the environment.

Today, the logging industry in Wisconsin is a much more sustainable industry. Loggers use selective cutting methods to harvest trees, and they are careful to protect the environment. The logging industry in Wisconsin continues to play an important role in the state's economy, and it provides jobs for many people.

This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.

Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.

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