

BIG WHEEL LOGGING

The usual set of two wheels was had its front end carried up in a neckten feet high, but sometimes a set yoke, as with a wagon tongue. would tower 12 feet. A heavy chain dangled from the right of a set's that swampers had cleared to places single axle, inside the wheel, and a where bunch teamsters had built bigtoggle rig from the left. Each hung wheel loads of logs, each load with from over the axle's top when the a chain hole under it. tongue was down, level for hauling. Loading Up. A thick springboard was ringbolted to the axle, its end jutting out behind for six feet.

A pole like a peavy handle stuck straight up from the axle by the springboard.

When the teamster went out to the woods from the landing with his wheels empty his two horses were

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MILL CITY ENTERPRISE, MARCH 10, 1949

enough to ride in its sling under the axles.

It was a mighty clever outfit, and millions upon millions of acres of pine forest were logged with bigwheels.

Soon slip-tongue wheels for fourhorse teams succeeded the old-time stiff-tongues. Steep logging could be done with the new wheels, for they would let the load slip and drag it when it would begin to run up on the horses. Eventually they were pulled by tractors.

Wahoo Logang.

You cannot forget, if you ever handled horses (n a big-wheel trail.

Down the hill, with a load too close to a balance. The big wheels running up on the horses, hitched out at the end of the tongue, with no breeching, no brakes.

On down the rough, swamped road, that twists among stumps, brush and blowdowns. Windrows of swamped rush along the trail-road. The trick s to zigzag the big wheels from one brush pile to another, slowing the wild load of logs down.

ward with all his strength on the Swing to the left, now! Haw, Bulpole while driving his legs down on let! Back to the right Yo! Hup! Gee, Baltimore, is the story of the local there, Snorter, gee!

Santiam Rebekah Lodge No. 166 in Tight line, keep a tight line, teamster, and don't trip your calks on Mill City was so named for the beaurimrock as that load of logs swing; tiful Santiam River that runs at you and a wheel shatters brush, through the heart of the city. The Tight line pulls panic out of horses. lodge was org nized 42 years ago

this February with ten charter mem-Let go and it's a runaway. There she wheels, back to the left bers-five sister and five brother Reagain, haw her true, gee back, and bekahs. Four of these members are stil living: Mrs. Belle Hawkins, Mill

Then it's a straight pitch down City; Mrs. Bertha Nicholson, in Calahead. Got to run for this one. The ifornia; Mrs. Effie Dawes, Portland, horses have to outrun the load. Hang- who was elected the first noble grand ing to the lines, you have to keep up, of the lodge; and Byron Malley, Port-

the tongue that could bat your head off your neck in one of its wild sweeps, so that as high-wheel and logs rolled over you they'd bother

you never, worry you not at all. You duck the tongue, you keep a your feet, you hold a tight line to the end of the run and the level land to the landing. Other men have been doing it season after season for many years. You can do it to. You are a pinetop, likewise, by the holy old mackinaw, a hard-line logger, a handler of horses from away back on the big-wheel trail.

Yay, Jack! H'ist, Ned! Wahoo!

Lodge History Told

Secretaries of all Robekah lodges in Oregon have been asked to write up a history of their organizations. The following, written by Bertha

> THE SENSATIONAL



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organization

land. Officiating at the new organiz- was saved this time. ation was Mrs. Chase, now deceased, who acted as district deputy president.

early months of the organization, even before the charter had been obtained, was the burning of the hall, including all the lodge furniture. Until a new hall was built, meet gs were held in an apartment home of one of the members who lived above a business concern. After the erection of the new lodge hall, it burned again within a few years, however, the piano and most of the furniture

A most discouraging factor in the



STATISTICS STREET, STR

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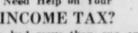
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the springboard with all his weight. This would tilt the tongue upward as the end of the springboard was borne backward and down and ram-

med into the ground, to prop the now towering tongue. When the heavy chain was snaked

under the load and toggled, then the team out in front pulled the tongue forwar and down with the light chain. The axle would turn forward with the descent of the tongue and the oading chain would begin to wind on

hitched astraddle the tongue, which

The rout was aver rough roads

The teamster backed his wheels

over a load to which the two-wheel

loaders directed him, until the axle

was above the chain-hole. Then the

teamster unloosed the doubletrees and

the team was driven out ahead of

the tongue, to which one end of a

One loader mounted the spring-

board tail of the big-wheels, grabbed

the upright pole, then hauled back-

long, light chain was secured.

When the tongue was brought to a making 17 feet at a jump, you are evel with the top log of the load, the between horses and load, alongside winding would have lifted the load

