

Loading Logs in North Santiam Canyon



MEHAMA—Loading a log truck in the woods is done by a loading donkey. Above, the "crotch line" method is being used to load logs at the Vincent Keller logging operations at the foot of House Mountain in the North Santiam area.

Logging Big Business in Canyon

By Jean Roberts
Logging is still Oregon's largest industry and in this area logs and lumber comprise the livelihood for most of the population. Logging trucks taxed by the state and sometimes cursed by the motorists, are an important part of the present logging industry. They dot highways from Salem to Marion Forks whenever weather permits. When cats and donkeys replaced teams, logging trucks eliminated the river drives

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and are now a necessary part of logging.

Years ago, when the roads were few and unimproved, the river was the only conveyance for the logs. Timber all along the river from Mehama to Mill City was horse logged to the North Santiam and floated down to the Willamette where it was boomed.

Occasionally the logs would jam. Ordinarily a peevie gang was sent in to pry loose the key log and so free the jam. When the water was too shallow for the peevie gang a team of horses was used to loosen the jam.

One horse was ridden and one man was placed in the log jam to fasten the dogs onto the log. (A chain with two dogs was used then, in place of the now common choker.) Another man rode the logs down stream to unfasten the dogs. This man was called a tripper.

At one time a team of horses, (belonging to Floyd Martin) was drowned near the present Mehama bridge, while loosing a log jam. The logs were lodged on the riffle above the bridge and the tripper didn't get the team free in time. The logs floated out into deeper water and pulled the team down, drowning them.

The road from the woods to the river was called a skid road and was made of poles, over which the logs were slid. Logging camps in those days had logging names that are unused today; such as "barkers" and "snipers." The barkers barked the flat side of the logs so they would slide better. This was called the "ride" of the logs and the old time loggers will say that a log only has one side upon which it will slide.

Experienced loggers then could easily tell which was the "ride" side and this was barked. The hook-tender "sniped" the logs with a two-axe snipe all around the log so it wouldn't tear up the skid road.

The Little North Fork area, still boasting several large stands of merchantable timber was once the scene of an attempted log drive. Logged off the Darling place the logs were pulled to the river which rose and

flooded them away. They were scattered along the bank and jammed on every turn and riffle. When a new bridge was under construction to replace the Mehama ferry, those lost logs came floating down and destroyed the first two spans of the new bridge.

Anyone could salvage logs scattered along the river. This was called "Sharking". The sharked logs could be loosened, scaled and branded and admitted to a regular log drive. A team of horses was sometimes used to shark the logs and one man had a team trained to swim down the river and pick up the tripper if he was unable to swim.

Though the pace of logging has been stepped up since the day of the horse teams, it is essentially the same.

Winter months have always been slack times with unemployment high. Logging vernacular though differing slightly from the years past is a language all its own and only understood by woodsmen. Despite modern machinery, logging is still a hard dangerous job.

Loggers—they differ little from those in the past still fulfill the well-known phrase of "once a logger, always a logger."—Cut Course of the Statesman, Salem.

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Reception Given Gates Couples Saturday Night

GATES—A reception honoring Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bowes, recent bride and groom and Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln Henness, who have been married for 60 years was held in the social rooms of the high school, Saturday evening, February 20. A large group of friends and neighbors gathered there to wish the newlyweds and the "oldsters" many more years of married happiness. A gift for each couple from the community was presented by Mayor W. R. Hutcheson, who spoke in behalf of their friends.

Music was provided throughout the evening by Mrs. Don Miley, Mrs. Walter Brisbin, Mrs. James Wiltsey and Mrs. Dale Reynolds at the piano. Special numbers included violin solos by Mrs. Ruth Osborne; two vocal solos, "I Love You Truly" and "Sweetheart" by Mrs. Dan Morrison and "Always" and "Because," sung by Mrs. Glen Gordon.

Bouquets of daffodils and blooming heather flanked by pink candles in crystal holders centered the refreshment table at which Mrs. James Wiltsey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henness and Miss Georgia Shane, both of Salem, poured. Ladies of the Gates Womans' club, under the direction of Mrs. W. S. Hudson, served and assisted about the rooms.

There's more hard work than luck in most success stories.

THE OLD BRIDGE

Vera Hathaway

The old red bridge that spans the current Of the rushing Santiam Brings me romance in the moonlight Tho' it's little more than sham; For the scaffolding is bare now With no place to set your feet— Yet I see them strolling safely As upon the village street. Yes, I surely see them walking With a slow and even tread— Little grandma in her bonnet Grandpa; hunting hat of red— Little grandma in her hoop skirts— Grandpa; new plaid shirt of green—

Stand together in the moonlight Just above the rolling stream. I can hear the foaming river; I can see the old red span; Yet I hear the softest whisper; "Do you love me?" "Oh yes, Dan." And beneath the graceful fretwork On the ancient worn-out arch— See them kissing in the moonlight While the moon-shadows march. Little grandma—glowing white, And young grandpa—strong and bright, Standing where no others can O'er the rushing Santiam.

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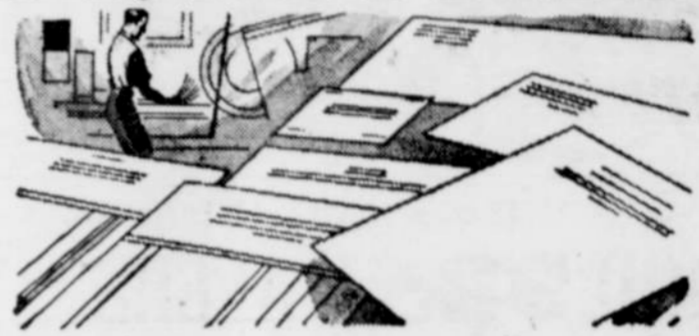
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