West Branch Logging Camp Clerk Henry A. Milliken's Newspaper Writings: An Annotated Bibliography, 1927-1977

William W. Geller
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by Bill Geller

Figure 1 Henry Milliken (courtesy Sandy Haynes)

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Introduction

A read through the titles and the annotations of Henry A. Milliken’s 230 plus newspaper pieces will suggest that he has written more about life in a logging camp than anyone else. The hallmark of his writing is a focus on the human nature of logging camps’ residents. The breadth and depth of Milliken’s written information is unparalleled. With few exceptions most of the information in every article differs from all others he wrote.

Logging camp clerk Henry Milliken was one of only five West Branch men who wrote substantively about their work.¹ This document is the only recording of his 230 plus written pieces, first hand accounts, appearing in Maine newspapers. I

¹ The others were: Charles Glaster (1918-1956), Felix Fernald (1926-1962), Sylvio Carron (1930-1950), and R.E. Blodgett, 1956-1982,
wish I had read them all before I finished my last book on West Branch logging and log driving.²

My introduction to Henry Milliken was about 2012 when I was putting together my book Katahdin’s Realm:…… I found a couple articles he wrote for the Lewiston Sun Journal and cited the content. In early 2023 when I bought and began using a subscription to Newspapers.com, because it now provided access to Maine newspapers post-1900, I stumbled across pieces written by Milliken in the Bangor Daily News. Those findings piqued my curiosity and fueled a cursory search that led to this paper. Milliken’s collective writing is an important contribution to West Branch logging history.

Milliken’s articles generally appeared in the papers at the time of year to which its content applied; consequently, I organized the works by year, month, and day. His first logging article appeared in the Bangor Daily News in 1927. Beginning February 1935 and ending with January 18, 1939 Milliken used the title “Gossip of the Logging Camps” for 132 Bangor Daily News columns. Within each year of the bibliography and the annotated version the “gossip column” is a distinct subsection and precedes his other articles of the year. Beginning in 1941 most of his articles appeared in the Saturday Lewiston Evening Journal Magazine Section.

In January 1938 Milliken began to write under the nom de plume “Jack Spruce” for articles (34) appearing in the Portland newspapers. Most of these

² Within Katahdin’s Realm ... (2018), West of Chesuncook and North of Moosehead.... (2021), Rendezvous at Chesuncook...(2023), Chesuncook Passages... (2024); each available as a free download from the Digital Commons of the University of Maine Fogler Library
pieces appeared in the *Portland Sunday Telegram* through May 30, 1943. He used the nom de plume twice in non-Portland papers after 1970.

The annotation notes for the gossip columns are in part a collection of phrases. Intentionally they do not capture Milliken’s writing voice, which is part of the richness of his works. As a writer Milliken’s paragraphs were each focused and each of my phrases is akin to a sub-header. In some cases he used a sub-header like “News from the Deacon’s Seat” that included a number of single sentences, each pertaining to a different matter or person. For these I cited something that piqued my interest and I hope will stimulate the reader to discover what others he included.

This annotated bibliography makes it easy to read his collective works by using Newspapers.com through a local library or your own subscription account ($19.95 for a month’s subscription as of January 2024). Newspapers.com is relatively easy to use. Its search mechanism uses three pieces of information, key words, date or date range, and location. For key words I used “Henry Milliken” and “Gossip of the Logging Camps” for two searches. For the columns “Gossip of the Logging Camps” use this title for the search, but if you do not get each entry listed herein, then repeat the search using “Henry Milliken.” For the date use the “month, day, year” for each entry or use “month year” and that will provide the pieces of the month; the search mechanism produces duplicates. For location I used “Maine.”

For those listings in the annotated bibliography that include a page number use “Journal Magazine” as the search word phrase and pick one option that takes

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3 The deacon’s seat was the long bench on which men sat in the bunkhouse at night and carried on conversations and story telling.
you to a page in the *Journal Magazine*. Once on a magazine page go to the provided page number using the arrows provided at the bottom of the screen.

Milliken’s pieces that appeared in *The Northern* are accessible for free through the University of Maine Fogler Library Digital Commons. Use “The Northern, month year” in the search box to access the issue and “Milliken” in a word search within it.

I hope you will enjoy reading Milliken’s accounts.

**Biographical sketch: Henry A. Milliken (1907-1978)**

For 50 years, 1927-1977, Henry A. Milliken shared his logging, camping, hunting, fishing and trapping knowledge through his articles in Maine’s newspapers. His logging columns alone numbered around 230.

Henry A. Milliken, son of Alston and Adelia Milliken, was born in Gardner, Maine in 1907. His family moved to Surry between 1910 and 1920. Here he attended the Surry schools and graduated from Ellsworth High School in 1924. The following year he attended a business college in Bangor, Maine. By February 1926 he was working for Great Northern Paper Company (GNP) at its Umbazooksus Lake operation as a clerk. A year later in 1927 he was the clerk for that spring’s Jo-Mary drive and continued as clerk for the Jo-Mary Stream improvement operation following the drive. In February 1928 he was a clerk at B-Pond and soon moved to nearby Cooper Mountain.

Some of Henry’s earliest writing was for *The Northern* a GNP monthly magazine printed between 1921 and 1928. In its August 1926 issue he wrote his
first column as the correspondent for the Chesuncook and Chamberlain Lake Railroad camp and his last was in the January 1928 issue. In 1927 Henry published his first two “woods” articles, one in *Fur-Fish-Game*, “A-B-C in Trapping in Maine” (vol. 49-50, p.62) and the other in *Hunter-Trader-Trapper*. “The Hedgehog Gun” (vol. 55-54, p44). Such pieces appeared regularly each year in Maine newspapers into the 1970s. In 1948 he published his book, *Hunting in Maine* that was well received and commonly referred to.

Henry probably learned his woods’ skills from his father. When Henry was 14 years old he joined him in building what became know by the family as “Camp 50,” a hunting camp that was on a long time family owned 50-acre plot of land in Surry, Maine and abutted another 100-acre lot of theirs. Henry used this camp regularly for hunting during his lifetime. The original camp was 10’x16,’ with three windows, a door, three double bunks, wood box, kitchen table, three chairs and a stove.

Henry continued his employment with GNP as a logging camp clerk through perhaps early 1939. In his early years he also was a river driver and he worked as a shanty camp logger when he was not associated with a GNP operation. He was at Umbazooksus as a storehouse clerk in 1929. He served as a GNP “fill-in” person for timekeepers, clerks and storehouse clerks; with an assignment in November 1933 in the Cooper Brook operation. In 1934 and 1935 he was a clerk in the St. John operation.
In an undiscovered year in the off-season Henry began working for the Pine Tree Amusement Company of Portland, Maine and was a manager for the company in 1935. He maintained his residence with his parents in Surry until about that time.

Henry married Freda Daniels of Ellsworth in Surry in 1935 and by 1940 they were residing in Freeport, Maine where they lived much the rest of their lives. Their daughter Mary Ann was born in 1937 and their son Robert in 1942.

His “Gossip of the Logging Camps” column in the Bangor Daily News first appeared in February 1935. He never told exactly where he was working, but his words provided hints. The column did not appear in the paper on a particular schedule. His last column appeared in the paper of January 18, 1939 and made no direct reference to this being his last column. In it he included a dialogue with Whiffletree about logging camp life with the last words being “closing the bunkhouse door.” In his prior column of January 16 the reader learned that he had injured a hand and could only type with one hand. Perhaps this was a signal that he could no longer perform his GNP clerk assignment and had to leave his job.

Beginning January 1938 Milliken used the nom de plume “Jack Spruce,” particularly for his logging articles that began to appear with regularity in the Portland, Maine, newspapers.4 “The Story of Jack Spruce” was a title of a 1922 film GNP produced portraying life in the north Maine woods lumber camps. The company made it available to civic organizations for showing. It was popular and a well used attraction between 1923 and 1926.

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4 Ellsworth American, June 7, 1948; picture of Henry Milliken and a short article about him and his new book
When Henry ceased working for GNP he became a Freeport filling station manager, a position he held in 1940, and by 1946 was a Portland Amoco filling station owner. In 1950 he was working for an oil company as a tank truck driver. He retired in 1969.\(^5\)

Henry did not retire from or tire of his newspaper writing and life in the woods. His articles about logging, hunting, fishing, trapping, and camping continued to appear for another eight years in the *Lewiston Evening Journal Magazine*.

**General Reflections: Henry A. Milliken’s logging camp articles**

As a logging camp or operations clerk for 13 years Henry worked at the center of active camps. Operationally he knew the men, what they were doing, what materials they used, how long different tasks took, and what they ate and wore. He heard their stories and told stories, and read letters aloud to those who could not read and wrote letters as dictated to him by men who could not write. He was a listener and recorder of what he heard and observed. He could laugh and make fun of himself and his clerk work. He enjoyed the life of the logging camp community and was interested in the nature of its men. These characteristics endeared him to many with whom he kept in touch through their logging years.

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\(^5\) Information for this sketch came the following annotated articles and ancestry.com; newspaper obituary; Paul Higgin’s photographic album (privately held); *Bangor Daily News* November 18, 1925, September 30, 1926, and June 4, 1927; *Ellsworth American*, February 24, 1926
A number of those loggers communicated by letter. Some of those letters, particularly those that reflected on the activities of loggers he included in their entirety. From other letters he took snippets that included where his many friends were now cutting.

The apparent popularity of his column “Gossip of the Logging Camps,” particularly among loggers, was perhaps because they could envision sitting in the bunkhouse each evening listening to the very words of Milliken’s column. When they felt Milliken did not have it quite right, they wrote and he acknowledged, and included the different opinion.

Milliken’s writing included a few tall tales. Each of those seemed to evolve from a real event that was embellished in some unknown manner, but the names of the men were accurate and through the story the reader learns about the nature and character of the men involved and what was important to them.

Some article titles have some of the same words. This does not signal a repetitive article. Milliken often wrote about a single subject like horses or shanty camps or cooking or a clerk’s job or camp language, but in nearly every case it was in a different context or time period or centered on a different camp or person or situation.

Bibliography under the name Henry Milliken

1920-1929

1926, The Northern, correspondent for “Chesuncook and Chamberlain Lake Railway Camp:” issues of August, September, October, November, and December

1927, September, The Northern, correspondent for “Joe Mary Stream Improvements”
1928, January, *The Northern*, correspondent for “Cooper Brook Log Hauler Road”

**1930-1939**

1930 – Milliken’s only writings were about hunting and trapping.
1931, June 15, *Bangor Daily News*, “Shanty Camp Has Advantages; Brings One ‘Near To Nature’”
1931, August 17, *Bangor Daily News*, “Hunting For Honey”

1932-1934, Apparently Milliken did not write on the logging topic during these years.

1935, *Bangor Daily News*, “Gossip of the Logging Camps:” February 19, February 26, March 6, March 30, April 25, May 4, May 20, June 8, June 25, June 28, July 13, July 15, July 22, July 29, August 5, August 19, September 10, September 27, October 12, October 21, November 7, November 9, November 30, December 2, December 16, December 17, December 21, December 31


1936, November 28, *Bangor Daily News*, “Army Invades Domain Of King Spruce And King Fir”


1937, *Bangor Daily News*, “Gossip of the Logging Camps:” January 2, January 9, January 16, January 23, January 26, February 27, March 1, March 6, March 24, March 26, April 19, April 20, April 24, May 1, May 4, May 11, May 15, May 18, May 19, May 29, June 4, June 28, July 10, August 6, August 12, November 27, December 7, December 9, December 27,


1937, March 27, *Bangor Daily News*, “All Records Are Smashed For Hauling Big Loads of Pulp-wood”


1937, June 1, *Bangor Daily News*, “Close-ups Of Forest Fires And Results”


1938, *Bangor Daily News*, “Gossip of the Logging Camps:” January 3, January 6, January 11, January 19, January 29, February 4, February 8, February 15, February 19, February 22, March 1, March 26, March 28, April 5, April 19, April 21, April 26, April
27, May 3, May 9, May 17, May 18, May 28, June 15, July 4, July 26, August 19, September 9, September 13, September 20, September 28, October 8, October 17, October 22, October 31, November 5, November 8, November 11, November 15, November 19, November 25, December 1, December 3, December 19, December 23


1938, March 12, *Lewiston Journal Magazine*, “Big Sam And Gentle Dan Tell Tall Tales Of Snowstorms In Maine Logging Camps”


1938, November 7, *The Bath Times Daily*, “Henry Milliken claims that any logging camp cook will tell you red squirrels are almost as destructive as rats.”


1940-1949

1940, April 2, *Bangor Daily News*, “Gossip of the Logging Camps”

1941, April 5, *Lewiston Journal Magazine*, "How Haywire Pete Sailed The Big Log Boom Down To Chesuncook"


1943, April 10, *Lewiston Journal Magazine*, “Maine Lumberjacks Want Candy, As Well As Baked Beans”


1944, April 1, *Lewiston Journal Magazine*, “Bears Don’t Like Soap”

1944, April 22, *Lewiston Journal Magazine*, “River Drivers Of Old School Find Changes”


1944, July 29, Lewiston Journal Magazine, “Used To Recognize Lumberjacks By Their Clothing”


1945, May 26, *Lewiston Journal Magazine*, “Bill Fortin Was Versatile Woodsman As Well As Good Friend And Companion” (continued from May 19)


1950-1959


1959, March 14, *Lewiston Journal Magazine*, ”Maine Woods Storehouse Clerk Of 30 Years Ago Was Busy Man”


1960-1969


1970-1977


**Bibliography under the nom de plume “Jack Spruce”**

1938, January 9, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, “Shanty Camper’s Life In Big Woods Not Like O’Reilly’s, By A Long Shot”

1938, July 2, *Portland Evening Express*, “Maine’s Black Bear...A Pest To Camp Cooks”

1938, August 19, *Bangor Daily News*, “Logging camp clerks will tell you that lumberjacks are fond of candy...”


1938, November 20, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, “Logging Newcomers Find Terms Used In Woods Very Confusing”


1939, May 21, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, “Operation Clerk In Maine Logging Camp Is Up And Down With Sun”


1939, October 8, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, “Good Hard Work In Big Woods, Timber Cruising”

1939, December 17, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, “Eats Fit For King Whipped Up In Woods Chefs’ War”


1940, March 10, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, “Toter Was A Big Asset To Old Time Lumber Camp”

1940, March 17, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, “‘Slanguage’ Of Lumberjacks Changes In Modern Times.”

1940, April 21, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, “Woodsmen Take Comfort In ‘Stags’”

1940, May 12, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, “To Be A Lumberjack A Man Must Know How To Play Cribbage”

1940, May 26, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, “Notch In Boot Top Meant Day’s Work In Old-Time Lumber Camp”

1940, November 10, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, “Lumberjacks Want Bunk-Houses Kept Same As Past 50 years”


1940, December 22, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, “Horses Still Useful In Lumber Camps Despite Inroads Of Trucks”

1940, December 29, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, “Depot Camp Hub Of Lumberjack’s Activities”

1941, February 9, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, “Horse Has Place In Lumber Camp, Not Entirely Replaced By Motor”


1941, April 27, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, “‘One-Eyed’ Pete Was Jump Ahead Of Other Drivers”

1943, January 17, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, "Logging Business In Olden Days Something To Write Home About"

1943, January 31, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, "Haircut In Lumber Camp Something To Think About"


1943, April 18, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, “Log Driving Traditional Spring Work For Husky Men”


**Annotated Bibliography under the name Henry Milliken**

**1920-1929**

1926, *The Northern*, correspondent for “Chesuncook and Chamberlain Lake Railway Camp:” August, September, October, November, and December  
The text of all his 1920’s correspondent pieces are short and primarily information about men of the camp, like the newspapers social columns of the time.

An experienced cookee leaves camp with the lunch for 10 men, gets lost, can’t be found, finds his camp three days later, and never ate the food he carried.

1927, September, *The Northern*, correspondent for “Joe Mary Stream Improvements”

1927, December, *The Northern*, “The Lost Cookee” (essentially the same text as above)

1928, January, *The Northern*, correspondent for “Cooper Brook Log Hauler Road,”

1930 – Milliken’s articles in this year were apparently about hunting and trapping.

A more descriptive title for the article would have been “The Construction of a Logging Camp.” It takes place during the summer and fall with a timber cruising team of three men first determining a camp’s location. Tents are set up on site for construction workers. A phone line is immediately put in and road building begins. The first structures include a tarpaper cook shack, dynamite shack, and blacksmith shop. The article included two pictures.


This is the story about a couple days in the life of a lumber camp telephone lineman, a person responsible for keeping open an 80-mile stretch of phone lines. He walks or snowshoes daily from one camp to the next; a carrier of camp gossip.

1931, June 15, *Bangor Daily News*, “Shanty Camp Has Advantages; Brings One ‘Near To Nature’”

Milliken spent time logging from a shanty camp. Such a camp was small and housed three men with room for cooking. The men cut small amounts of wood on woodlots relatively close to villages and did their own cooking. Milliken often received inside visits from hedgehogs, red squirrels, weasels, and mice and enjoyed watching them.

1931, August 17, *Bangor Daily News*, “Hunting For Honey”

Milliken joins a man who demonstrates to him how to follow wild bees to a hive in a hollow tree as opposed to a man made bee box. In later years Milliken referenced this article in a logging camp story.

1932-1934 - Milliken apparently did not write about logging during this time period.


February 19: For three days the weather between 12 and 2 below in the Grant farm area; work of the clerks who keep a manual inventory of everything from needles to tractors to the 100 items men can buy from the wangan; Preparations for the drive, moving of boats, ropes and other equipment into position; a long list of loggers in the camps each noted with what they do in their spare time; teamsters and their record loads

February 26: A singing voice, a story, and a nine p.m. bed time, logging camp superstitions, every Sunday laundry day when the men make huge fires outside to heat the water and themselves, work of the “bull cook” who is the tender of the bunk house

March 6: In a lumber camp the word “stags” refers to what men wore on their feet and every man had his favorite; called boots were just one of many; the broad range of the work of a black smith; music in the bunkhouse included a wide variety of instruments; cookees wasted nothing; 5,000 men in the woods this winter included heights from 4’1” to 6’ 8”
March 30: Men unloading a loaded log sled at the landing used a particular sled; sometimes space required them to stack the wood; the 410,000 GNP cords this year stacked four feet high would stretch 620 miles and weigh 1,025,000 tons; the ramdown or bull-dog stoves burn a tenth of a cord of green hardwood a day to keep the men warm; electricity and radios in the camps; the tale of a crew man with a mustache and an umbrella.

April 25: The few in camp preparing for the drive and making headworks; the camp watchman for the off-season to ward off bears trying to break in; largest tractor haul of cordwood and other records; a spruce diameter of 52 inches; how lumberjacks keep track of time; some men blacksmithing one season and cooking the next.

May 4: One hobby of “Jacks” making cedar chests; the most commonly used tote wagon; 50-gallon barrels of molasses; typical number of cords hauled by a horse team during a season, 300; a story of the occasional cutter who got lost returning to camp and spent a night in the woods; on a drive when a bateau with food supplies goes over the cook left with pea soup to serve for a week; the kind-hearted wangan clerk uses his own duffle to help a logger; a wood scaler needs to have good judgment and legs.

May 20: The woods horses and their names; work of the dam tenders during the drives; the cooks cat and mice and bobcats; the cant-dog or peavey, one of the most important tools; some men of the drive; the difference between spruce of the northern counties versus the southern counties; GNP has 25,000 wool blankets for its men, all laundered at the end of each season.

June 8: Drive timekeepers and their “pencil pusher’s trunk;” two women drivers of 10-ton Lombards; the river driver’s four meals: pitching horseshoes: work of the camp watchman in the off-season; “sacking the rear;” bug dope use; one of the greatest “stands” of timber.

June 25: Tales of strength; E.H. Ladd’s drive of white pine saw logs; “peeling of pulp”

June 28: The river drivers’ tents; Umbazooksus operation that included a railway; music in the logging camp; “grey-hounds,” woods workers who walk 20-30 miles a day to do their work; carrying things by mistake.

July 13: Work of the logging camp timekeeper; bears in the logging camp; the storehouse clerk and what a teamster needs; some logger vocabulary; a 70 man crew consumed 224 pounds of confectionary sugar in January.

July 15: Gigantic mosquitos, a washtub, and a hammer; horses in summer; new gas stoves replace the wood burning ones on the drives.

July 22: Camp barber; river driver and his boots; cookees packing lunch; logging camp construction.
July 29: The story of a bear in the kitchen, not a tall tale; what some loggers like or use; bear visits to the Seboomook dam camp kitchen

August 5: A tenderfoot’s first time walking a floating log; axe men typically use a 3.75 pound axe; only a fifth of the river drivers can swim; logging camp vocabulary and expectations

August 19: West Branch No.2 and boom jumpers; skunks in the kitchen; the ice cream freezer with a left hand crank; some woodsmen and their thoughts

September 10: Cutting season preparations underway; the broken down and loaded tote wagon; “high-liners;” no forks at lunch

September 27: A lumberjack’s view of the woods; lumberjacks who wear neckties; the old bunkhouse blanket; tea in the camps

October 12: Bull-cooks cutting wood for the winter; cheese in the camp; piling wood for the scaler; bears before hibernation; 100 men eat 180 pounds of rolled oats in a month; daily “tuning up” a bucksaw; expectations of a timekeeper; feeders and horses’ consumption

October 21: GNP’s 1934 St. John operation; men changing from calk boots to those with rubber bottom and leather top; cotton waste for “chinking”

November 7: Serving pepper to bears; the tale of the sailing lumberjack; the timekeeper says; largest load of rough green pulp wood hauled by a one-horse team; falling leaves hide lunches; 157 men drink 200 pound of tea in a month; what’s in a cook’s knapsack; equipping fellow teamsters; feeders want the teamster to fill their own lanterns

November 9: Lombard tractor history; a camp foreman’s thoughts about the men; bean hole beans desirable, but cooks now doing them on the stove’s ovens unless…; clearing tables; what every teamster wants with him; drying wool socks

November 30: More bears than the past 20 years; Camp cooks like weasels; the yarn about cook Silver Sam, his beans, and bears

December 2: Long Jim’s magazines initiated loggers knitting socks and mittens in the logging camps in 1923; December’s loggers’ activity; radios replace the camp phonograph

December 16: A Bill Geagan yarn about the lost lumberjack; mutterings of a storehouse clerk; first power boat on Chesuncook Lake; a yarn - the lumberjack and his false teeth; gathering spruce gum; remembering story teller and singer Scotty; driving 500 miles a week in the Moosehead Lake region delivering horses; Mouser, the 1926 Churchill dam caretaker; the Grindstone bridge 1926-1927
December 17: a lumberman’s rabbit at 30 below; the three sizes of lunch buckets for a crew; horse collars sizes; the cutting crew of five and their yarding horse; mail in the logging camp; making rockers in camp; trees to paper history; making the logging roads icy

December 21: repeat of December 17, 1935

December 31: winter head wear; the first suit cases used by lumber jacks; lumberjacks shovel snow; mutterings of the camp toter

Other articles of 1935


The work of horses in a woods operation begins in earnest in January when they begin to move the four foot logs from where they were cut and piled to a landing where river drivers handled them at ice out. They work six days a week. One man travels daily one logging camp to the next checking on the state of the horses. The article has one small picture.


Start of knitting in the lumber camps

1936, “*Bangor Daily News*, “Gossip of the Logging Camps:” (27 columns)

January 4: Purposely pile brush on the logging camp roof; why lumberjacks did not kill hedgehogs; sentenced to 30 days of fire building for not turning off the radio; loading green pulp wood and a teamster’s driving; scaling at a landing; the cook’s dog; Paul Higgins and his camera; storehouse clerks who remove the tenderloin; why the lumberjacks’ trousers are ‘stagged;” the old “highliners”

January 13: Wearing of “elkskin” moccasins and lumbermen’s rubbers; lumberjacks and their burlap or leather aprons; a yarn about Dan and his pet rooster; a lumberjack eats 4.5 to 5.5 pounds of food a day; horses eat 20 pounds of oats a day while working; the camp cook is usually the best story teller and the teamster has the greater vocabulary.

January 17: Hours of the teamster change with the hours of daylight; how the cook makes foods seem new; those who get to snack; peel the potatoes; easy life of the blacksmith; walking an adzed floor of the lumber camp; no romance in busting a jam; saving a man who has fallen into a log filled river; lumberjacks liked to spend money; the “shanty campers” and their cutting
January 22: The Max Hilton crews and the first truck hauling to a landing (1934); record tractor hauls required two feet of ice; an empty coffin on the river bank

January 27: Jim Wood’s group of teamsters and their record hauls and failures; tarpaper shacks often went up in winter as lunch spots; the camp office fire builder; Sunday is visiting day and the depot camp had many as it usually had the best cook; cookees used ice chisels made by the black smith to draw water; the typical bread board of the camp was six feet long and three feet wide; making tea at lunch: Pete Morin a man who could do everything in the camp; sheet-iron stoves heated the tents used on the log drive; keeping hands warm in winter

January 30: using ice to seal pail holes; definition of a “hardy;” bright painted handles; the mailbag that fell off a sled; driving a car after being in the bush five or six months

February 1: Too much snow is problematic; cooks in earlier years used two six hole stoves to feed a 100 men; now they also have a “wood burning baker” that can bake 48 loaves at once; fresh frozen fish arrive in barrels; storehouse clerk duties; those who don’t get their Sunday’s off; heating the root house with lanterns; fresh frozen beef piled outside like cordwood; lumberjacks like their candy (Note: it appears that Milliken is serving as a depot camp or storehouse clerk this year.)

February 10: Camp “breakup;” lumberjacks always carry their own pocket size first-aid kit; throwing the “cantdog;” a lumberjack’s wife’s choice of words once he comes home; the landing scene and men at Big Bog; Deer Pond half-way camp and getting to Chesuncook village; a camp uses 50-100 gallons of kerosene a month

February 25: Tractor drivers, 20,000 cords, gasoline, icing roads with a 5,300 gallon water tank and the St. John operation; dealing with toothaches; the bark peeling season; hauling season is coming to a close

February 29: Toting expenses were once driven by distance and quality of the road in fall, winter and spring; toting today; hauling and driving changes; thawing dynamite

March 14: Logging camp changes in the last 30 years; how the camp boss spends his time

March 20: Horses operating in three feet of snow; crossing rotting ice with air holes on snowshoes; a tough snowshoe in spring conditions; activity between the end of hauling and the start of the drive

March 23: An early rain and non-freezing temperatures impact the drive; horses return from hauling; the boom boring machine

March 27: The largest pulp wood load this season; an encounter between two hedgehogs and two lumberjacks
March 30: The story about Gus the camp toter and transporting cabbages

April 3: Working on a headworks; in the old days mail came in once a week; putting out a forest fire with dish pans; making seven kinds of cake, eight kinds of pies, a washboiler full of doughnuts … , every day; average lumberjacks eat 1.5 pounds of potatoes per day

April 6: Heavy rains mean drives start early this year; road conditions prevent mail delivery to the camps; lumberjacks know Elizabeth Hamilton Hartsgrove of Seboomook as their official poet; women drove Lombard tractors; Lumberjacks and matches; the spring laundry of a logging camp

April 27: The tale of Slim Jim of Longley camp and a bear; the tale of the cook who played his phonograph as his wangan bateau moved downriver; once the drive starts the camp gets no more food deliveries; an Elizabeth H. Hartsgrove poem

May 2: The tale of the office camp encounter with a lumberjack who asked for socks from the wangan

May 9: Working with peeled wood; having a “knack” for chopping and sawing makes a difference in cords produced per day; the work of oar-men in a bateau; the “doughnut war” (Note: Milliken seems to be looking at books he is keeping.)

May 11: Bears awaken and cook beware; transporting dynamite; spare time on a river drive; alarm clocks in the camps; whose is working where; note of this year’s drive

May 23: The tale of Jim and his pulp wood job

November 4: Logging camps just opening for the cutting season; storehouse filling up; third season of the St. John operation; GNP owns more than 600 horses; cutting next year’s firewood

November 21: The yarn, “when Old Jake was toting from the Depot camp to Camp #3”

November 25: The “face cord;” Not enough water for a drive on May 10th, but was on May 14th; bears looking for camp food before hibernation; lumberjacks also harvest spruce gum; Sunday is a the camp filer’s busiest day; G.B. Burr a logging cap foreman at 18 years of age; cutting done by Christmas so a vacation and then hauling starts

December 14: “Buttoned in for winter;” camp conversations about who will haul the largest loads this winter; the timekeeper’s red ink became the dye to create the “red” flannels of the tenderfoots; the 25 cent haircut; salvaging sunken wood at Quakish; cutting locations

December 28: Remembering John (Johnny) Mea, more than a woods foreman
Other articles of 1936

Loggers ice the main haul and tote roads during the winter so as to create a hard surface. Milliken describes both the equipment, the nature of the work, and the intended outcome. The article includes a picture of a 5,300-gallon water wagon.

The strategies of a lumber camp cook include: using different color frosting on the same cake, using different recipes for cooking beans, putting frosting on day old cookies, peeling the potatoes, and being prepared to serve snacks to those in camp.

1936, May 15, Lewiston Sun Journal, “Humor Trickles into the lumber camp yarns spun so happily by Henry Milliken.”
This article is a story about a doughnut-war engaged in by seven cooks, each in a different camp of a single large logging operation.

1936, November 28, Bangor Daily News, “Army Invades Domain Of King Spruce And King Fir”
Milliken described the magnitude of GNP’s St. John operation in the context of what it takes to cut a huge amount of cordwood.

1936, December 26, Bangor Daily News, “Whiffletree Would Harness Timber Tiger’s Snores To Generate Power For Saws”
This is a story Whiffletree Wilkins, a feeder, told about his work-horses Nora and Daisy hauling the largest two-horse cordwood load in history, and a way of capturing the loud snoring echoing in the bunkhouse and turning it into electricity.


January 2: “Yeouman’s Camp, Grant Farm December 11,1910; a 17 year old logger’s letter to his mother; molasses on every logging camp table at every meal; Abner Coburn’s logging days; when a saw “grunts” it needs attention; a collection of random thoughts about and observations of the logging camp and its men and ways; the tenderfoot (Note: Milliken clerking in a camp and his wife at home.)

January 9: this is the time when the men are peeling wood; the many jobs assigned to lumberjacks; the absentminded lumberjack; the story of the shovels; mutterings of the camp blacksmith; cookee lost for four days with the lunch box; wearing of moccasins; flat files are pencil sharpeners

January 23: A letter from “shanty camp” logger; anticipating the mail’s arrival
January 26: A Caleb Tracy December 25, 1863 letter from a logging camp in Twp 22 to his wife; a letter from a teamster dated March 3, 1867 from “Pine Knowl,” Minnesota to Caleb

February 27: The work of the teamster and his crew; a 58 man logging crew consumed 256 pounds of butter in a month; you never ask for 13 men; 300 cords average per horse for three months; listening to what on the radio; which camps have electricity and what it powers; Maine made equipment; frozen cars

March 1: A new timekeepers first two days on the job

March 6: Letter from a logging camp timekeeper with observations and reflections; record hauls with trucks and teams

March 24: Handling peeled wood; a yarn recalling hauling when horses got sick

March 26: The incident of Stub and his fiddle; recalling the Cooper Brook drive of 1927 and the improvement work on Jo-Mary Stream

April 19: C.M. Hilton first to experiment with a truck with sled-trailer for hauling

April 20: After the hauling ends and before the drive starts it’s inventory time for camp clerks and timekeepers; removing poplar bark is the easiest; timekeepers keep the wangan box from which lumber jacks make purchases; some men, their work, and their location

April 24: The drive sections of the West Branch and related drive activity; a lumberjack wish for a coin operated washing machine; river drivers tell fewer tall tales than lumberjacks

May 1: Trials and tribulations of a chef of a river driving outfit as penned by a long time chef

May 4: River drivers on the job already thinking of where they’ll work next year, depending on who the cook is; the tenderfoot; work of the timber cruiser; thinking about Ed Sweeney and Bill Henderson

May 11: The season for timber cruisers (Note: Milliken was part of the cruising team for the GNP railway right of way at Umbazooksus years ago.)

May 15: The work of the camp watchman; bears get into the food stored for the drive; a 12 year old miss humbles the birling champion; ten dollars for a river driving outfit; one cookee kept busy peeling potatoes; river drivers use bug nets at night; river drivers sleep on bow beds; what’s in the wangan for loggers to buy; “sacking the rear”

May 18: “A river driving drama in one act” (22 years ago)
May 19: A foreman’s thoughts about the complexities of river driving

May 29: “Talking about mosquitos;” continuous rain discourages river drivers; “half-way camp” and the Cooper Brook operation in 1928

June 4: Odds and ends; red bandanas turn the Sunday laundry maroon

June 28: Peeling logs not so easy; 1927 Jo-Mary camp watchman, 65-year-old John Ross, tells about his work

July 10: Logging operations superintendents and cruisers are now in the woods seeking locations for this year’s logging camps with construction of camps and roads quickly following.

August 6: “Spudders” work ends, the bark is now set; users of “Polack Fiddles,” 42-inch bucksaws begin their work; recalling Wilmer Spencer and Henry Ordway; Arthur Landry the best of the birlers can also ride four foot wood

August 12: A visit to an abandoned logging camp and memories; a cookee hired for his voice; recalling Ned Hall and Nick Buttelaar; bathing

November 27: Lumberjacks come in all sizes; a toter who could lift a 540-pound barrel of kerosene; nearly every lumberjack shaves weekly; lumberjacks well dressed for their work

December 7: Pete Morin’s work as camp watchman at the St. John Depot camp; remembering Bill Reardon lumberjack humorist; Dan Shea tells how to spot a tenderfoot

December 9: Remembering Stanley Foss Bartlett; a good yarding horse; hauling about to start; remembering Hanse Peterson well known blacksmith; the Lombard hauling record; recalling Ray Fernald and Walter Henderson; success with hauling trucks; Sundays in camp; renewed use of bean holes

December 27: work of the storehouse clerk; spruce gum harvests

Other articles of 1937


Timber is the name of the storyteller and main character. A greenhorn arrived at the camp when all were out cutting and Timber sat him down to educate him about logging that included a January river drive.

A logging camp feeder is the storyteller for this tall tale that includes a tenderfoot, who thinks there is no romance in logging, two competing logging camps in the Chesuncook area, one drive stream on which to drive both camp’s logs, anticipated limited water for the spring drive, and competitive spirit.


The camp timekeeper is not often thought of too highly by other members of the logging camp, often referred to as pencil pusher, red ink slinger, laziest man in camp, meager memory, to mention some. Henry Milliken who held this job wrote that a man in this position had to be a combination of bookkeeper, lawyer, doctor, diplomat, and student of human nature. This article is an accounting of a day of the timekeeper.


For many years logging camps engaged in a contest to see which camp would haul the largest single load of pulpwood. In the early years this was all about horses, by 1937 it was mostly about tractor hauls. This article includes a review of those hauls and the largest to date and their overall productivity. This article has one picture, a loaded pulp train.

1937, March 30, *Bangor Daily News*, “Crop From Farm Woodlots Means Dollars And Cents – Both Pulp And Hardwood Add To Annual Income”

Milliken reminded his readers that not all-important logging took place deep in the Maine woods. Farmers employed woodcutters in season and sold the cords to the paper companies and hardwood for firewood.


Milliken shared two yarns. One year in the spring the crew at Ragged Lake got tired of waiting for the ice to melt so they began cutting ice. In the second yarn a crew landed 15,000 cords on a lake with no outlet; a camp boss with the cook’s help had a strategy to get the logs out.


The work of a river-driver as told to Milliken by an old time river-driver; it was not romantic work. Considerable preparation was needed before the drive started, and once the ice breaks up the work changed dramatically with four meals a day and living out of a tent. “The job is the best cure for rheumatism that I know.”

1937, June 1, *Bangor Daily News*, “Close-ups Of Forest Fires And Results”

Milliken reminded his readers that forest fires eliminate logging jobs and sites once burned did not have a merchantable crop for 40-50 years.

The swingdingle was yoke for a human to carry two full buckets. For example cookees used them to haul water for the cook or to move a couple pots of soup to the lunch site. The article has a picture of a cookee wearing a swingdingle.


At Christmas time in Steve’s camp about half the crew of 60 left for home and the half that stayed planned a festive Christmas day with Christmas tree and gifts for all and wonderful food. Milliken described this event and the nature of the presents; for example, shears for the cook was a nod to him for his hair cutting.


January 3: New unloading plants at the Rice farm and other locations; Arthur Landry, the woods best birler

January 6: Post Christmas work of hauling from the stump and yard to the landings; a lost cruiser; a lost lumberjack; Jo-Mary operation 1927-1928

January 11: Unloading pulpwood at a landing; work of the feeders; work in preparation for the spring drives; truck hauling; knowing when the cook is frying doughnuts; remembering a number of men

January 19: Thoughts of the logging camp’s timekeeper

January 29: A yarn about a new invention, a great help to the bull cook

February 4: Blacksmith Archie Blair’s story of the black bear and beans at Umbazooksus in November 1927; Sunday’s in a lumber camp; a list of different men of the woods with their reputation; a collection of one line factoids related to logging

February 8: The work and thoughts of the big tractor driver

February 15: A letter from Hugh Desmond reflecting on his experiences in the logging camps; cookees on roller skates in the dining room; calculating the use of food supplies

February 19: The work of the camp clerk

February 22: Cook Danny Sexton and his cat; wearing calked boot in the kitchen; a timber cruiser’s work

March 1: A logging camp cook’s words about life in a logging camp; the Rice farm conveyor; information about certain men and their work location
March 26: A letter from a storehouse clerk

March 28: Silver Sam tells of “breaking camp” at Loon Lake on April 10th; driving long logs more dangerous than pulp wood

April 5: The story of a man with no experience who arrives looking for a drive job; the story of two cooks, Big Sam and Little Sam; serving four meals a day on the drive

April 19: Remembering Bill Moriarity and Jack McDonald; the camp chef is typically the camp doctor

April 21: Bateaux, canoes and power boats used on the drives; timekeepers on the drive; moving camp on a river drive; a drive waiting on water; thoughts of a river drive foreman; the largest loads of pulp wood hauled; the tar bucket; non-swimming river drivers get back on a log

April 26: The timekeeper, holder of everyone’s watch during the drive

April 27: Remembering Fred Gilbert; a tenderfoot and working on a headworks; the work of “spudding,” peeling bark

May 3: Remembering Fred Gilbert

May 9: A reflection on his work by an inspector of supplies and equipment

May 17: Work and expectations of the timber cruiser; how the timekeeper handled men with the same first and last names; cost of a phone call from the logging camp to a wife

May 18: John E. Mea, the best liked and known camp clerk; life in the tents of the river drive; lumberjack letters home were generally very short, men of few words

May 28: It happened at Steve’s river driving camp on the West Branch years ago

June 15: Pete Morin and his work as the vacated St. John camp watchman; remembering Joe Marceau and Walter Henderson; when a river driver took over the cooking; the romance of the river drive, still present with the advent of pulpwood; even ice cream and cake on the drive; another black bear story

July 4: Raccoon on the roof; select individuals, their work and location; cookee lost for five days with a food box; more on Fred Gilbert (note: Henry was on vacation in Vermont with family.)

July 26: Lumberjacks and available work this year; timekeepers and boom chains; lumberjacks and wangan candy
August 19: Remembering Kenneth Fuller Lee; toting supplies when it is muddy; lumberjacks wondering about jobs; horseshoe pitching and lumberjacks

September 9: In the written words of a “shanty camper”

September 13: reflecting on Felix Fernald; camps opening up; the dress of lumberjacks; busy times in the wash room; cribbage, the camp card game

September 20: Big Sam, a chef, shows up for his first job; preparations for cold weather; in the 1920s lumberjacks arose about 4 a.m.; foreman up before that

September 28: Secret of well liked “straw boss” Little Lee at Ragged Lake (Note – Milliken is at a logging camp and apparently working.)

October 8: For some toting easiest work in the logging camp; a chef’s wife makes a difference in camp; making a tent warm; lumberjack footwear; a tenderfoots first meal at camp; first day on a saw

October 17: Remembering Henry Holden

October 22: Peeled wood operations coming to a close; logging related thoughts from the “deacon’s seat; problematic blow-downs; unused ovens of the stoves; lumberjacks’ hardware

October 31: A story of Ronny in a big box trap at Cooper Brook; a story of two well trained horses and the foreman

November 5: The story of Abner, the cookee and bull cook, and his terrible canoe on the Ragged Lake job; a proud cookee with an electric radio; news from the deacon’s seat; kitchens with no baking powder

November 8: The story of the best doughnuts and the resulting Brandy Pond war

November 11: Red and spirits on a rainy day; remembering “Dynamite Murphy;” a tenderfoot’s question for a cook

November 15: The predicament of a know-it-all tenderfoot; the tale of Scotty and the schoolteacher; life in the logging camp

November 19: A story of an average man who attempts to cut his winter’s supply of firewood; winter telephone lines; spruce gum picking; loggers and a 40 hour work week and men who don’t work

November 25: An underwear conversation between long time logger Whiffletree and Sam the bull cook
December 1: Use of coal in the bunk house at Cooper brook in 1933-1934; generally popple (poplar) was not used for construction: how lumberjacks get lost every year; a lumberjack’s definition of being prosperous

December 3: The load of 123.75 cords hauled by a Linn tractor March 11, 1938; previous record of 108.5 cords set in 1937; the true facts of the impact of the 24 inch snow storm at Crawford Pond (c.1935) and clearing snow

December 19: The story of Whiffle tree and Sam welcoming the new timekeeper

December 23: Christmas meaning for present day lumberjacks versus those of 15 or more years ago; story of the logging camp’s Christmas honey

Other articles of 1938

   Clearing logging roads and keeping them passable in GNP country during winter was a major task of roadmen and far different today as opposed to the years when horses were the only mode of transportation as explained by Milliken. GNP preparations began in the early fall. The plowing was long in terms of time and hours with tractor plows moving at only six to eight miles and hour and routes were up to 100 miles. Breakdowns did happen, but GNP prepared for those; skilled drivers were also mechanics.

1938, February 28, Morning Sentinel, “Henry Milliken is responsible for this Maine woods story.”
   This story, which dates back to 1927 at Umbazooksus Lake, was about beans and bears and a blacksmith named Archie Blair.

1938, March 12, Lewiston Journal Magazine, “Big Sam And Gentle Dan Tell Tall Tales of Snowstorms In Maine Logging Camps”
   Big Sam, a long time teamster who started in the long log days (before c.1915), told a story about snow depth. Gentle Dan, also a teamster, told a story about cold weather. This article includes one picture.

   The bull cook was the man who had charge of the bunkhouse. In this story the bull cook was explaining the ways of the camp and who did what work and the ways in which everyone worked together. This story includes on picture.

Milliken explains the construction of the buildings and the differences between the new lumber camps and the old ones. As an example the floor is no longer composed of partially rounded logs. The article includes one picture.


Milliken claims one will never forget his first logging camp haircut and told the story of his first cut.

1938, November 7, *The Bath Times Daily*, “Henry Milliken claims that any logging camp cook will tell you red squirrels are almost as destructive as rats.”

At one logging camp the cook had a pet weasel that dispensed of the critters who came for the food.


January 7: The abandoned lumber camp; “what we didn’t have 25 years ago;” the contents of a teamster’s knapsack; matches once provided by the lumber company; annual crop of wood per acre now about a half cord; a man’s bed defined him; remembering Roy Whitney; the Sunday evening meal, pea soup and johnny cake; before hats with earlaps

January 16: The black smith busiest on Sundays when horses not working, but need shodding and sleds repaired; making sled racks and bunks; some camps use more than 50 cords of fire wood a winter; the dissolution of a tenderfoot before he even started; (Note: Milliken might be typing with only one hand the other injured.)

January 18: Whiffletree and Sam the bull cook conversation about Sam’s work and life in a logging camp (Note: Milliken’s last line closing a door to the bunk house bought their conversation and this column to an end.)

Other articles of 1939


This is a day by day accounting of activity for the last week of the winter season in the logging camp. At its end all the men will leave for “down river” and await word at home to return for the drive.


As the title suggests the story is about pea soup and a drive; consider how your imaginative ideas might match this story, and the reflected work values.

Having fresh apples in camp was always enjoyed; the men ate them and cast out the core. Some apple trees grew over time in places loggers frequented year to year. This is a story about a guides warning, a large deer herd, and a drive camp.

1940-1949

1940, April 2, Bangor Daily News, “Gossip of the Logging Camps:” an accounting of what foremen were working where and the amount of cords to cut; a description of an episode where all the mechanical equipment broke down in a day leaving nothing for hauling wood, and a mechanic who worked 24 hours straight to get everything fixed; Father Alexandre of St. Zacharie visits the camps

1940, December 24, Bangor Daily News, “Lumber Camps Look Much Like Those Of Old Times, But Inside They’ve Changed”  
“The camp yard scene has changed little in half a century, but comfort, fare, conveniences and lumber methods had been brought up to date.”

1941, April 5, Lewiston Journal Magazine, “How Haywire Pete Sailed The Big Log Boom Down To Chesuncook”  
Haywire Pete was the oldest river driver in the crew and he solved the problem of a nine day and counting head wind that stopped the drive. The article also captures details of a drive and the spirit with which the river drivers worked.

Timber was a lumber camp foreman whose bull cook, an older long time logger, played a violin too often too long for some members of the camp. The story captures the foreman’s difficult job of keeping peace among men in a camp.

1942, June 6, Lewiston Journal Magazine, “Lingo Of The Lumber Camps”  
This article would have been helpful to any one associated with a logging camp for the first time; it helps a person understand the vocabulary of conversations.

This is a story about Wild Bill a long time tough and respected logging camp foreman with unusual strength and dexterity, and in this story, a tender heart when seeing to the care of one of his men.

Cyclone Pete’s story was an example of the many tasks many loggers were capable of handling. He worked as a hay-hiller in a logging operation, a dynamite and white water man on the drive, a straw boss for dam construction, camp watchman, river drive cook, tractor driver, ... , and blacksmith.
1943, April 10, *Lewiston Journal Magazine*, “Maine Lumberjacks Want Candy, As Well As Baked Beans”

In November 1933 the first candy bars and fresh apples, five cents each, appeared on the shelf of the wangan at Cooper Brook and sold out in one evening. One year later toothpaste was added to the shelves.


“Whitewater Charlie” was a river driver with 40 years experience that included both long logs and pulpwood. In the narrative Charlie points out how the drive has changed and when the motorboat of the crew mechanically dies he teaches the crew how to build a headworks and operate it. In another demonstration of the old ways Charlie was not so successful.


In this article Milliken’s focus is toting to the most distant camps, those at the end of the new cut and therefore in poorest condition roads and how toting matters have changed.


A tale told by Crooked-Knife Pete at lumber camp near Longley Pond.

1944, April 22, *Lewiston Journal Magazine*, “River Drivers Of Old School Find Changes”

Henry Milliken describes in detail his work as a river driver and assesses the differences between driving long and short logs.


A tall tale about starting the drive at Ragged Lake as told by Milliken.


Lumbermen kept records and liked to talk about them and to gather their crews and try to unseat the record holder. Records reviewed in this article include the largest spruce cut, the highest production in a day of a band saw, the largest hauls by horses and by tractors.

1944, July 29, *Lewiston Journal Magazine*, “Used To Recognize Lumberjacks By Their Clothing”

Milliken reminisces about being able to spot the lumberjacks in Bangor in the early days, but not any more, and explains why and how the changes in dress changed over time. Some of his camp stories include dressing for dinner and a polished up dining area with curtains.
1945, May 19, *Lewiston Journal Magazine,* “Bill Fortin Was Versatile Woodsman As Well As Good Friend And Companion”

In 1927 Henry Milliken was logging camp boss Bill Fortin’s clerk for his drive operation at the head of Upper Jo-Mary Lake. Henry writes about his meeting him, his leadership, and the work on that drive.

1945, May 26, *Lewiston Journal Magazine* (p.12A), “Bill Fortin Proved To Be A Good Cook As Well As Story Teller Delux...” (continued from May 19)

Milliken continues with his story of Bill Fortin and caretaker of the Jo-Mary camp, John Ross, and includes a snap shot of summer activity in the area.


Henry Milliken reflects on the few years of life as a shanty camp logger in Hancock County, a camp he now uses as a hunting camp. The article included a picture of the camp.


In the logging camp what food was cooked, how it was prepared, and how it was served changed dramatically over the years. What did not change was that cooks and their fare attracted men to the camps; good cooks had a following and the companies knew that.

1950-1959


In this conversation Crosscut Stevens, an old timer who is the bull cook, is in conversation with Whiffletree Wilkins, camp straw boss. They discuss how the men of the camp have changed from when they first entered the camps.


Crosscut Stevens, bull cook and Whiffletree Wilkins, straw boss, have been on logging operations together for more than 40 years. Crosscut is a reader and Whiffletree is not. In this exchange they talk about young people of the current time, what they seem to desire and be like and how that compares to Stevens’ and Wilkens’ lives in the woods.

1959, March 14, *Lewiston Journal Magazine,* “Maine Woods Storehouse Clerk Of 30 Years Ago Was Busy Man”

In 1929 Milliken was the storehouse clerk at the Umbazooksus depot camp. He writes about the nature of his work then and compares it to the present day. This article has three pictures of Umbazooksus’ camp’s structures.
Crosscut and Whiffletree discuss the advent of candy and sweets in the logging camp and tell stories pertaining to it.

1960-1969

Milliken provides examples of how camps operated without electricity and the changes that followed with electricity.

1970-1977

Milliken recalls Connie Burke, a long time woods clerk in 1926, stating that long logs were more fun to drive than long ones and explained why. In 1926 Milliken was a new clerk on the drive and was not sure it fit his definition of fun; challenging was perhaps a better word. This article is a collection of Milliken’s observations and experiences and it includes seven pictures.

Milliken writes about how the married men began their Christmas planning in September, saving money and sending some home on a regular basis. As the holiday neared, they had the camp barber cut their hair. Clothes washing took place two Saturdays preceding Christmas and were an unusually busy affair. Typically those who left did so on December 22 or 23. This article has three pictures.

(Note: I could not locate this article in this issue or in another in Newspaper.com.)

In the old days loggers had a number of stories that were recited over and over again and if you did not have a story then that was a sign of being a tenderfoot. In this article Milliken shares some of those most popular: “The Doughnut War,” “Teamster Dan’s Pet Rooster,” and “the ambitious would be musician.” Two pictures accompany the article.

In the mid-1930s Great Northern Paper Company kept 1,500 horses busy in the woods, but by 1966 logging practices changed and the company did not own a horse. In this article Milliken captures the history of horse use in GNP logging operations. This article includes eight pictures.


Milliken reminisces on evenings in the bunkhouse. The men liked the quiet serenity, enjoyed a story, and liked good music that was not often available, but lights were out at 9 p.m.. Some times on Saturday nights a group of novice musicians practiced in the blacksmith shop.


Neil Jamieson, son of a Nova Scotia lighthouse keeper, became an assistant cook for the Cooper Brook operation in 1933 when he and Milliken first met. For this article the two men met up again and Jamieson shared his story that included his cooking and logging. Four pictures accompany this article.


In this article Milliken describes the abandoned lumber camp log structures, tells the history surrounding what he sees, describes how trappers and hunters moved in and used them, and includes information about the modern day logging camp. This article includes five pictures.


Milliken recalls the 1926 drive from Longley Pond in detail, his first experience, and reflects on why the drives would soon cease. This article has eight pictures.


Milliken rode on his first tote sled in February 1926 at 10 below zero. In this article he recalls conversations with St. John Camp 1934-1935 toter Dan Shea; Milliken was storehouse clerk there. The conversation ranges from how they cared for the horses, the care needed in certain spots on the road so the team was safe, what other than the horses made the work hard, what the terrain looked like as the teams moved over the land, the importance of the mail carried and the nature of the changes that have occurred over time. Seven pictures accompany this article.
Annotated Bibliography under the nom de plume “Jack Spruce” (34 articles)

1938, January 9, Portland Sunday Telegram, “Shanty Camper’s Life In Big Woods Not Like O’Reilly’s, By A Long Shot”
Spruce describes in detail two small shanty camps, one comfortable and the other not, what it takes to live in one, and details about the cutting. This article includes a picture of a shanty camp.

1938, July 2, Portland Evening Express, “Maine’s Black Bear...A Pest To Camp Cooks”
This story is a Spruce experience at Umbazooksus where bears kept stealing cook Big Mike’s hams. The camp foreman was finally able to shoot one bear after everyone was asleep, live trap another smaller male bear, get a collar on it, and kept it as the camp pet.

1938, August 19, Bangor Daily News, “Gossip of the Logging Camps”
Candy bars and fly-dope were two of the best sellers from the camp wangan. Lumberjacks enjoyed attending the Northern Maine Fair at Presque Isle and Spruce wrote about why.

1938, September 25, Portland Sunday Telegram, “Lumbermen Rise Early Sunday To Tidy Belongings”
Loggers did not cut wood on Sundays, but they were up even earlier to put their wash in the two iron pots over the fires in the camp yard, write letters, package up spruce gum, and use their thread and needles.

1938, November 20, Portland Sunday Telegram, “Logging Newcomers Find Terms Used In Woods Very Confusing”
Spruce writes about the multiple uses of the word wangan.

Lumber camp foreman Tom Mullins told how to hunt rabbits without a gun on extremely cold mornings.

1939, January 8, Portland Sunday Telegram, “Poker Game, Thing Of Past In Maine Woods Lumber Camps”
Spruce describes in detail the poker games of the past and why they ceased and cribbage, with no money involved, replaced them. This article includes a poem titled “The Poker Game” by Elizabeth Hamilton Hartsgrove of Seboomook.

A cookee’s job started at 4 a.m. and ended about 9 p.m. and included a wide range of work needed to “sling grub” for the lumberjacks. Spruce describes their work.

1939, May 21, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, “Operation Clerk In Maine Logging Camp Is Up And Down With Sun”

A camp clerk worked some of the longest hours of anyone in the camp. Spruce described in detail the work a clerk engages in on a regular basis.


Spruce reminisces about the use of the Lombard steam driven log haulers, the transition to diesel and gas powered Lombards and other types of tractors, and the use of the left over coal for their boilers.


Spruce recalls cook Bill Fortin and the stories he told about the logging camp food he prepared; it included catching and preparing white perch chowder.

1939, October 8, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, “Good Hard Work In Big Woods, Timber Cruising.”

Spruce describes the work activities, methods, and days of a timber cruiser.

1939, December 17, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, “Eats Fit For King Whipped Up In Woods Chefs’ War”

This is a Spruce story about three cooks, each in a different camp, of the 1927 Cooper Brook Operation. Cooks always liked to be complimented and thought of as outstanding. To stimulate that one cook began to serve a special desert. Another cook heard about it and added to it. This is the story about how the competition among the three of them evolved, what fueled it, what it led to, and how it ended.


Moody Tompkins, a chef in the St. John operation did not waste anything even the beaver tails left for him by trappers.

1940, March 10, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, “Toter Was A Big Asset To Old Time Lumber Camp”

Spruce recalls the impact of a good toter when each cutting camp of a large operation had its own toter whose team made trips six days a week to the depot storehouse. For this article he took a ride in a modern-day supply truck of Leo Boutin in Greenville and describes what was done during a daylong drive on a delivery route.

1940, March 17, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, “’Slanguage’ Of Lumberjacks Changes In Modern Times.”
In this guide to lumber camp language Spruce explained, “boil out,” the symbols used by the timekeeper, and new words like “cat doctor,” “the man with a stick,” and “rolling bum;” words associated with the chef, the assistant foreman, clerk and timekeeper, superintendent, ...

1940, April 21, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, ”Woodsmen Take Comfort In ‘Stags’”

‘Stags’ were after-work bunkroom footwear worn by the loggers. Spruce described the daily ritual of entering camp after work and changing into them.

1940, May 12, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, “To Be A Lumberjack A Man Must Know How To Play Cribbage”

Spruce traces the evolution of cribbage playing in the lumber camp.

1940, May 26, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, “Notch In Boot Top Meant Day’s Work In Old-Time Lumber Camp”

Spruce describes a variety means by which loggers kept track of their time, cords cut, and wangan purchases; the timekeeper also kept his own record.

1940, November 10, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, “Lumberjacks Want Bunk-Houses Kept Same As Past 50 years”

The least changed element of the logging camp was the single bunkhouse. Spruce describes the old and new bunkhouses and the living conditions in great detail.


Graybeard, who could not read or write, was a long time camp foreman for whom Spruce worked as timekeeper in his early years. Spruce provides an account of their working relationship and a reflection on why Graybeard was a fine foreman. Spruce also notes that the next generation of foremen studied forestry and had college degrees as well as woods experience.

1940, December 22, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, “Horses Still Useful In Lumber Camps Despite Inroad Of Trucks”

Spruce provides an accounting for the work horses still performed in a logging operation.

1940, December 29, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, “Depot Camp Hub Of Lumberjack’s Activities”

In the depot camp compound Spruce focuses on the storehouse and its keeper; the storehouse provided every camp of the operation with equipment and supplies needed for uninterrupted work. Spruce, who once served in this role, describes the intricacies of the work.
1941, February 9, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, "Horse Has Place In Lumber Camp, Not Entirely Replaced By Motor"

This is essentially the same article as: 1940, December 22, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, "Horses Still Useful In Lumber Camps Despite Inroad of Trucks"


Spruce describes in detail the work of the scaler throughout the logging season.

1941, April 27, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, “One-Eyed’ Pete Was Jump Ahead Of Other Drivers”

This is a north Maine tale that Spruce heard one evening when working on a headworks on Longley Pond. The tale is about One-eyed Pete and how he operated a headworks when his crew was sick.


Spruce reminisces about what tools and equipment he and other members of a logging camp operations had to bring with them to camp, and describes the nature of what the logging employer now provided.

1943, January 17, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, “Logging Business In Olden Days Something To Write Home About”

Spruce shares two letters to home and their context: one from Caleb Tracy in Township 22 (Maine) to his wife in Machias dated December 25, 1863 and one to Caleb from Alex Lawrence in Pine Knowl, Minnesota dated March 3, 1867.

1943, January 31, *Portland Sunday Telegram*, "Haircut In Lumber Camp Something To Think About”

Spruce suggests ways to ask for a hair cut. His advice to any tenderfoot was to be nice to whoever cuts hair in the camp, and “don’t tell the barber the style you want; he’ll cut it the way he wants to.” He includes an entertaining story of a haircut.


Spruce recalls women cooks in the camps during WWI and shared what jobs they might assume in the camps as more men went into WWII. Already women were peeling bark on the pulpwood of the shanty camps, making it a family operation. He also shares the story of the “female cook” at Hardy Pond and her positive impacts.
1943, April 18, Portland Sunday Telegram, “Log Driving Traditional Spring Work For Husky Men”

Spruce shares thoughts on how cooking at a lumber camp was easier than that for a river drive. The majority of his words describe in detail how both cooking and eating take place during a drive.


Spruce writes about how the “belly timber” (food) changed over time and how and why the depot camp always had the best food and why the most productive camp usually had the best cook.


In the early 1920s a few of the larger pulp and paper companies hired “efficiency experts” to travel to the lumber camps. One job they did was to inspect all stovepipes. Men of the camps thought these men were totally unnecessary. They had no camp experience as Spruce reveals in his story of such a visit to a long time foreman’s camp. (Note: I could only find this by using the search words “Journal Magazine” in the newspapers.com search engine.)


Spruce returned to the Jo-Mary area in July 1970. He worked here for a couple of his earliest years in the logging camps. He writes about what he sees, and he reminisces about what the camps were like 40 years ago. This article includes six pictures of modern day Jo-Mary camp in 1970.