

Tape 1990.26.63 Interview of Herb Hutchins

Businesses

potatoes

sawmills

shingle mills

lumber-based businesses

typical logging camp

In 1880's the oldest industry was a **woodworking factory** located 1/2 mile north of Main St. on West side. It made butter bowls and cant hook stock.

Detroit Iron Furnace Co. built a charcoal kilns. Gave a market for hardwood lumber. Employed quite a few men. Operated until 1896.

Jackson, Wylie Co. of Saginaw

Had a hoop and stave mill which used elm wood. Located west of RR tracks, south of 4th St. Gaylord.

This is where the Conservation Dept. is, those white bldgs by the library.

They made hoops and staves for barrels. Barrels were assembled elsewhere.

Humphrey Bros. Early 1880's built sawmill where Conservation dept repair shop was. Did custom sawing from 1890's-1920's.

DLBW 1893

Made and finished ten pins from maple. Also shoe lasts. In business til about 1930. Employed 35-40 men.

It was seasonal work. They started work in the fall and worked until all the logs they bought were used.

Shut down usually 2-3 months in the summer. shipped lasts to east coast, England and Australia.

Gaylord Manufacturing Co.

Local men formed this company. Had a blacksmithing business. Made lumbering sleighs which were in much demand as they were well-made. Also mad light sleighs that were used to make deliveries.

They also made the Gaylord Wagon and were agents for farm machinery (they sold farm machinery).

Operated until 1918 or 1920. Located on two sides of Main St. Gaylord. On south side by location of

Widrig Bldgs. and on north side at corner of E. Main and Elm St.

Employed 15-20 men.

Grist Mill

Located on west side of RR on north side of 4th St. Did custom grinding.

Blacksmith shops

There were about 5 in Gaylord. Also 5 hotels and 4 livery barns. A livery barn is a business that rents horses, buggies and sleighs to people who wish to travel. Two modes of transportation at this time was RR or horses. Livery kept 8-10 horses. A prosperous business until the age of the automobile.

Gaylord Car Co.

Formed by local investors Guy Hamilton was auto builder. Used bldg where Beaver Tool is located. They purchased car parts and assembled them here. Made 25-30 cars The Gaylord Utility and the Gaylord 30. They had too much overhead and the business closed.

Potato Warehouses

Buck and Bolton were the first to have potato ware houses . Theirs was west of RR tracks on Main St. In all there were 5 different potato shippers. They provided winter seasonal work, grading, sacking etc.

At height of potato business here 400-600 car loads of potatoes were shipped each year. There are 500-600 bushel per carload. 3600 lbs.

Saw Mills

about 1875 Dave Buell built a sawmill at Otsego Lake. He was father of Frank Buell. Sawed all pine. In 1890's the pine ran out. So the sawmills at north end of Otsego Lake sawed mostly hardwood as they were built in 1890's and afterwards.

Louis Jensen built mill at Bagley about 1891 which he ran until 1920's.

Hartnell Brothers built a mill in late 1880 or early 1890's that they ran until 1900. A boiler explosion in 1892 killed five men.

1900 Frank Buell built a sawmill south of Beaver Tool Manf. Co., in area across from K-Mart. In 1904 a fire destroyed their lumberyard. Possibly arson. Firefighters came from Bay City. Sawmill was too far from water supply for locals to putout fire.

Vanderbilt - Hicks and Olds Co.

At Logan - Rogers Lumber Co. built a mill. Burned around 1905-06. Was rebuilt and bought by Yuill Brothers.

Shingle Mills

Used cedar wood mainly.

The Whitmarsh mill was on east side of Sturgeon River.

Quick - Henry Lord

Nicholsen and Hansen - Joburg 1901

built a branch of RR from Lovells to Joburg. Operated until 1930's. They also had a planeing mill. Otsego Lake Lumber Co. at Otsego Lake used pine to make shingles.

Logging camps

This example of Fred Smith's camp 1/2 miles east of State Rd. Dam is typical

All bldgs wee made of logs

1) office, little store and foreman's living quarters

2) cook camp with mess hall and kitchen, had rough tables and chairs. Used tin or granite ware dishes
Cookie (cook's helper) blew dinner horn or rang dinner bell when food was ready. Rule: No talking in mess hall

Food - beans, pancakes, syrup, meat, pies, cookies, tea and coffee (tea and coffee were served in bowls)

30 Men's bunkhouse

long, rectangle

2 tier bunks along east side of wall (long side)

mattresses were made of bales of straw shook out and covered with blanket; pillow was sack stuffed with straw.

Benches ran along side of bunks.

Wire clothes line down the middle

Wood stove taking 4 ft wood kept stocked by the chore boy.

Bunk house was smelly/ No showers to use.

4) Horse barn

Horses were prized and well cared for. Their was a barn boss who ran the barn.

5) Blacksmith shop

Shoed the horses, maintained the sleighs, etc.

There were 35-40 lumbering camps in radius of 15-20 miles of Gaylord. Hardwood logging from 1880's to 1930's.

Day's Work

Began at daybreak and ended at dusk. Jobber had a quota to make so could be longer. 10-12 hour days. The roads were iced by loading barrels of water on sleighs and taking out at night or very early morning. These sleighs were called sprinklers. Used torches placed along road to mark the road.

Wages were 16-18 moth plus room and board for typical worker. More for skilled workers like the teamster who was in charge of team of horses.

Betting and card games were not allowed.

Stevens

Henry Stevens II had Stevens Lumber Co. at Bradford Lake. His son , Henry III "tom", did not work at business. He owned the Otsego, a baseball club. Built a baseball field with bleachers, dug out, etc. in Gaylord. After he no longer wanted it he offered it to City of Gaylord. City declined his offer so he sold to Dr. Harris who used it as pasture. Stevens tore down bldgs. before Harris bought it.