

SMITH RIVER
AND
UMPQUA TRIBUTARIES
NAVIGABILITY REPORT

By

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Frontispiece
Rollway on Douglas County
stream.
Douglas County Museum.

INTRODUCTION

Under the Equal Footing clause of the Oregon Admissions Act, the United States Government transferred ownership of the beds of all navigable waterways to the State of Oregon in 1859. At the time of this report, the full extent of Oregon's ownership is unknown. The present development trends along our waterways make it apparent that the location of the State/private boundaries is of extreme importance. The 1973 Legislature recognized this and passed ORS 274.029-034. This law directs the Division of State Lands to make a study of all Oregon's waterways and to make public their findings. This report was meant to supplement our earlier report on the Umpqua River with a detailed examination of Smith River. In the course of that investigation, new material was discovered with regard to the use of tributaries of the Umpqua for log driving. That material, as it bears on the questions of the State's property interest in their beds, is also dealt with in the report.

Smith River is named after the great American fur trapper Jedediah Smith whose party camped near its mouth and was massacred, with the exception of Smith and two other men, by Indians on July 14, 1828.¹

Everett Abbott of Gardiner, former operator of the school boat on the lower Smith River, spent some time with members of this Division giving information on navigable use of the river. The following institutions also gave aid in the conduct of research for this report:

University of Oregon Library
Oregon State Library
Oregon Historical Society

Oregon State Archives
Douglas County Courthouse

Our greatest debt, as the fullsome illustrations make clear, is to George Abdill and the Douglas County Museum.

Cover Design: Log Deck at Smith River Falls

BASIN CHARACTERISTICS

Smith River

This river parallels the Umpqua on the north and empties into the Umpqua estuary opposite Reedsport. The basin forms the northwest portion of Douglas County, though some of the headwaters of the North and West Forks of the Smith rise in Lane County (Fig. 1). This river is over 89 miles in length and its source is five miles north of Drain; the approximate basin area is 346 square miles. There are no streamflow records for the river.²

The Smith has almost no habitation on its long course to tidewater which extends some 22 miles upriver to between Sulphur Springs and the mouth of Spencer Creek. The forest cover was desolated in the mid-portion of the upper river by the Oxbow Burn of 1966, fourth largest of Oregon's forest conflagrations in this century.³ The river flows over bedrock reefs for most of its distance above tidewater, but these hardly obstruct the river's winter flow; Smith River Falls (Fig. 2a) is but a two foot elevation of one of these reefs. The river's gradient is very moderate to low, dropping the 636 feet elevation from Gunter to Sulphur Springs in 55 miles at an even gradient which averages 11 1/2 feet per mile (See Figs. 1A-3). The tidewater section has very narrow agricultural strips and for many miles they and the river are walled in by cliffs which look as though they were built of Cyclopean blocks. The major economic activity of the basin in the past was a combination of fishing, dairy farming and lumbering, now it is virtually confined to the latter occupation.

Elk Creek

The Elk Creek basin alternates between rugged canyons and open farm land. Beginning at its mouth, the lower ten miles of the creek is narrowly confined by hills but above River Mile 10 opens out into Putnam Valley which widens to a

Fig. 1A.

**UMPQUA RIVER PROFILE
FLOW AND GRADE
BY RIVER MILE**

Prepared by DIVISION OF STATE LANDS
William S. Cox, Director

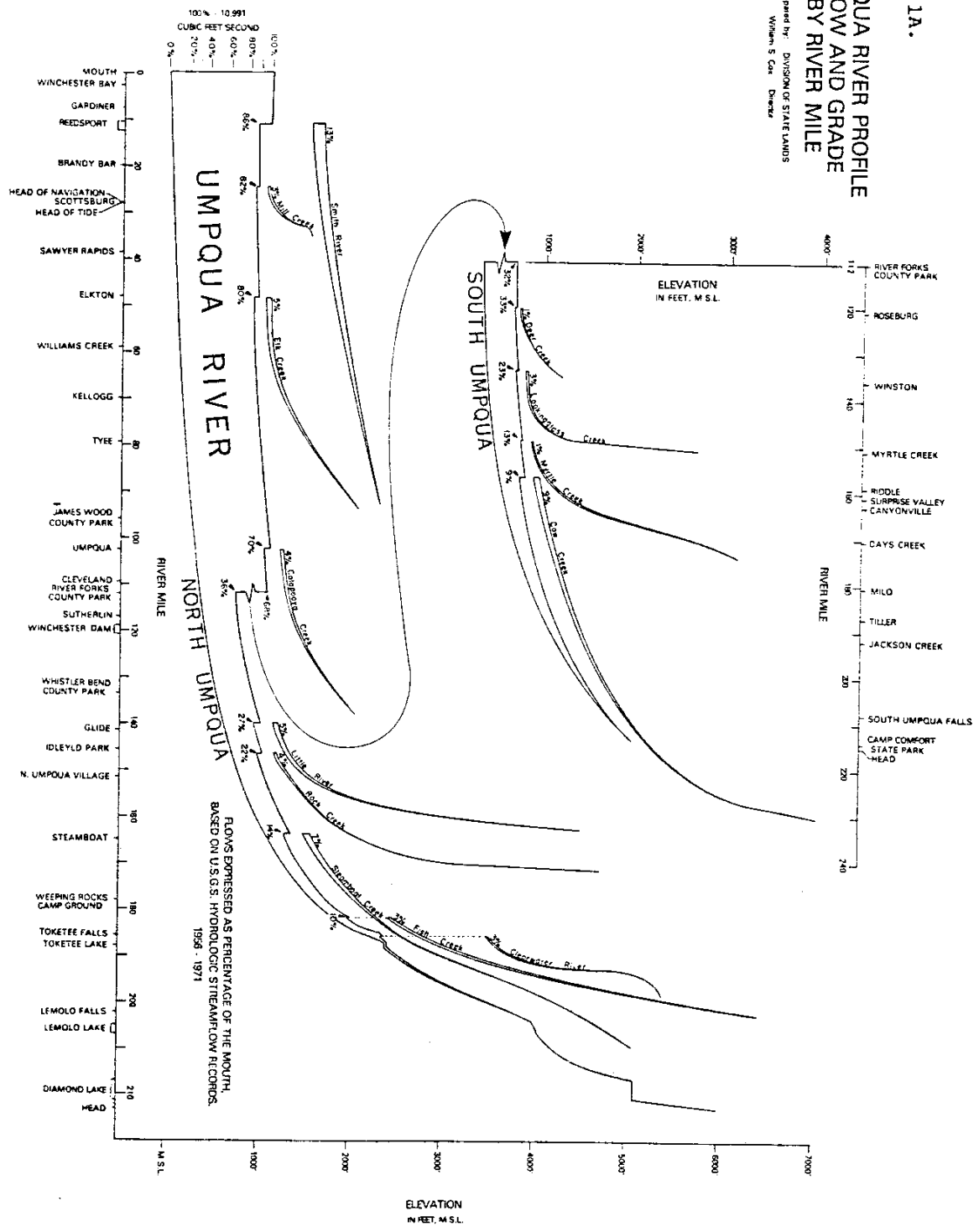




Fig. 2a. Smith River Falls,
RM 29, August 27, 1979



Fig. 2b. Smith River at
mouth of West Fork (right
foreground), RM 35, August
27, 1979.

mile across at its broadest part. Three miles below Drain the river is again constricted by hills, widening again at the confluence of Elk and Pass Creek only to narrow in another defile. A few miles above Drain, Pass Creek opens into an agricultural section while Elk Creek does the same in Scotts Valley. The drainage of Calapooya Creek is likewise farmland to the town of Oakland. Headwaters of Elk and Calapooya Creeks in the mountains have very steep gradients.

Main Basin

The Umpqua Basin is described in the report on that river. Supplemental to the material contained therein is the following table of streamflow data:⁴

<u>Stream Location</u>	<u>River Mile</u>	<u>Period of Record</u>	<u>\bar{X} Flow</u> (cubic feet per second)	<u>Extreme</u>	<u>Minimum</u>
South Umpqua at Tiller	187.31	40 years	1042	60,200	20
South Umpqua near Brockway	132.8	44 years	2899	125,000	34.28
Cow Creek near Riddle	6.7	24 years	898	41,100	7.4
North Myrtle Creek	2.2	23 years	74.2	3,260	0
North Umpqua at Winchester	1.8	35 years	3746	150,000	578
Umpqua near Elkton	56.9	73 years	7504	265,000	640

Mill Creek below Scottsburg, and its eastern tributary Camp Creek, pass through rugged terrain in narrow canyons.

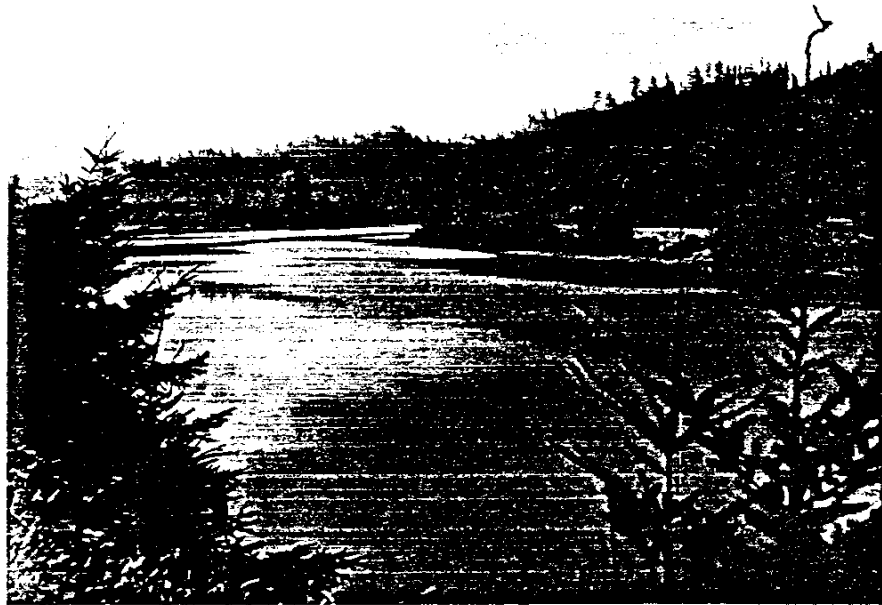


Fig. 3a. Tidal portion of
Smith River near RM 6,
August 27, 1979.



Fig. 3b. Head of Gardiner
Mill Company log driving,
RM 60, August 27, 1979.

NAVIGATION

SMITH RIVER

Vessel navigation was confined to the tidal portion of the Smith below Sulphur Springs (Fig. 3a).⁵ School children, milk cans, stock, freight, mail and passengers went on several gasoline powered riverboats between Sulphur Springs and Gardiner. By March 1903 the milk boat made trips up the Smith on alternate days (Fig. 4). Gasoline replaced steam power in 1912.⁶ The Pilot had a regular schedule between these two river points in 1916.⁷ The Bonita and Atlas operated in the 1920's; the Vulcan boasted a covered upper deck at the same date (Fig. 5). Earlier in this century school children had had to row to school and their elders also plied the Smith in locally built rowboats often with long elegant lines for rapid passage through the river's tidal waters (Fig. 6).⁸

Everett Abbott, aged 79, who ran the school boat from 1924-27, recalls the early methods of towing logs on the lower Smith River:⁹

In the early days they would make a small raft and then [my dad] would take a skiff and he started out with the tide. He would have to tie them up to the shore soon as the tide would change and then he would wait for the next tide to come. When it changed, he would start them out again on the high water and then go as far as he could before the tide changed again. It would always take him two days from where we lived up there to get those logs to [the mill]. Then in later years, of course, they started using the gas tow boats. First they started using the steam tow boats and then they went to gas and then to diesel. In fact, I have towed logs with diesel and gas.

The tidal portion also supported a commercial fishery which served both the two canneries located on the lower Umpqua and later the fresh fish market opened up by the coming of the railroad in 1915. Smith River remained the region's only highway until the county road was built in 1931.¹⁰

The North Fork of the Smith had some boat use, but this probably did not extend much above tidewater. Thus on January 2, 1909 the Gardiner Mill Company Store gave Ren McKinney permission to take their scow, loaded with fencing, up that fork,

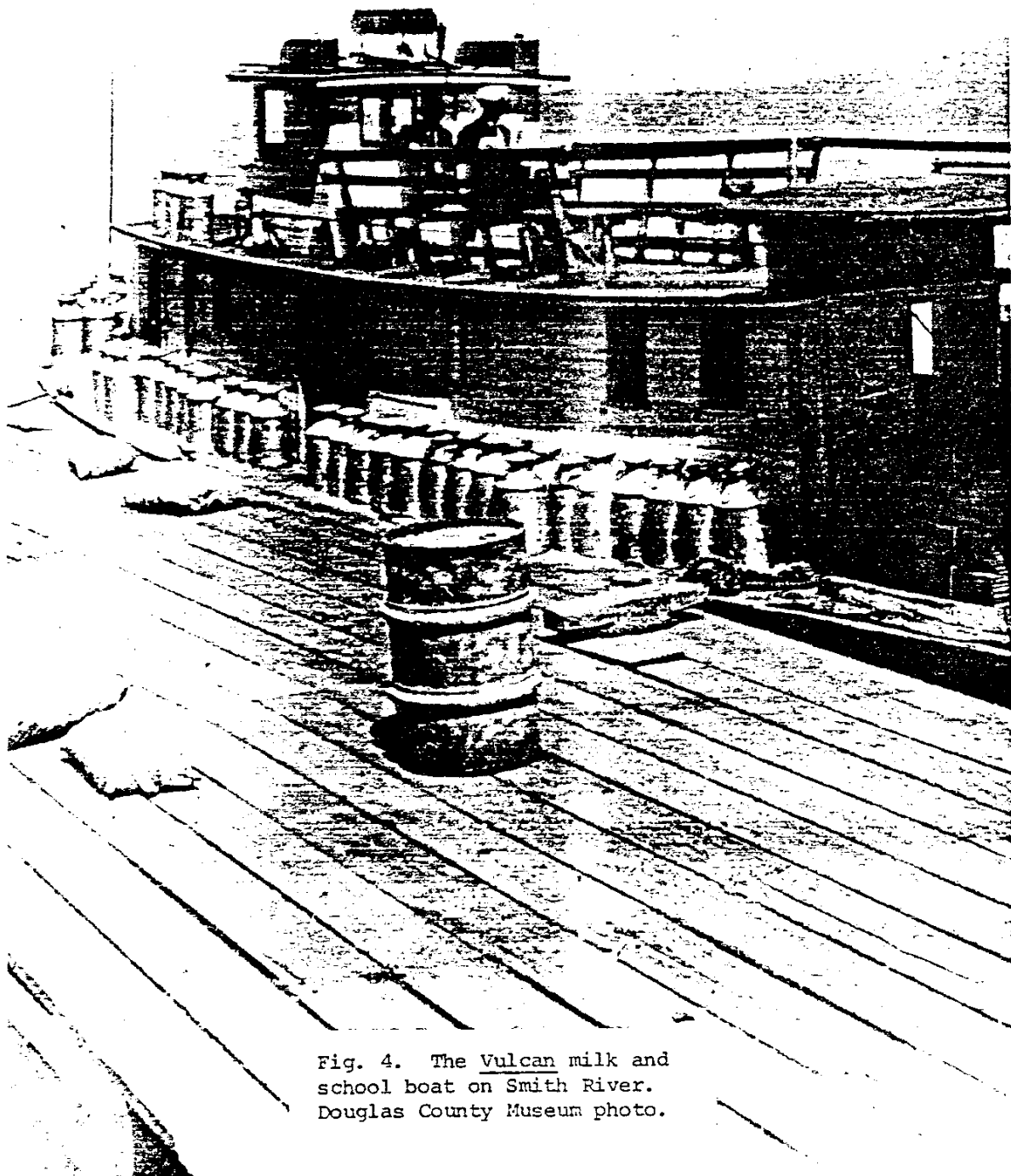


Fig. 4. The Vulcan milk and school boat on Smith River. Douglas County Museum photo.

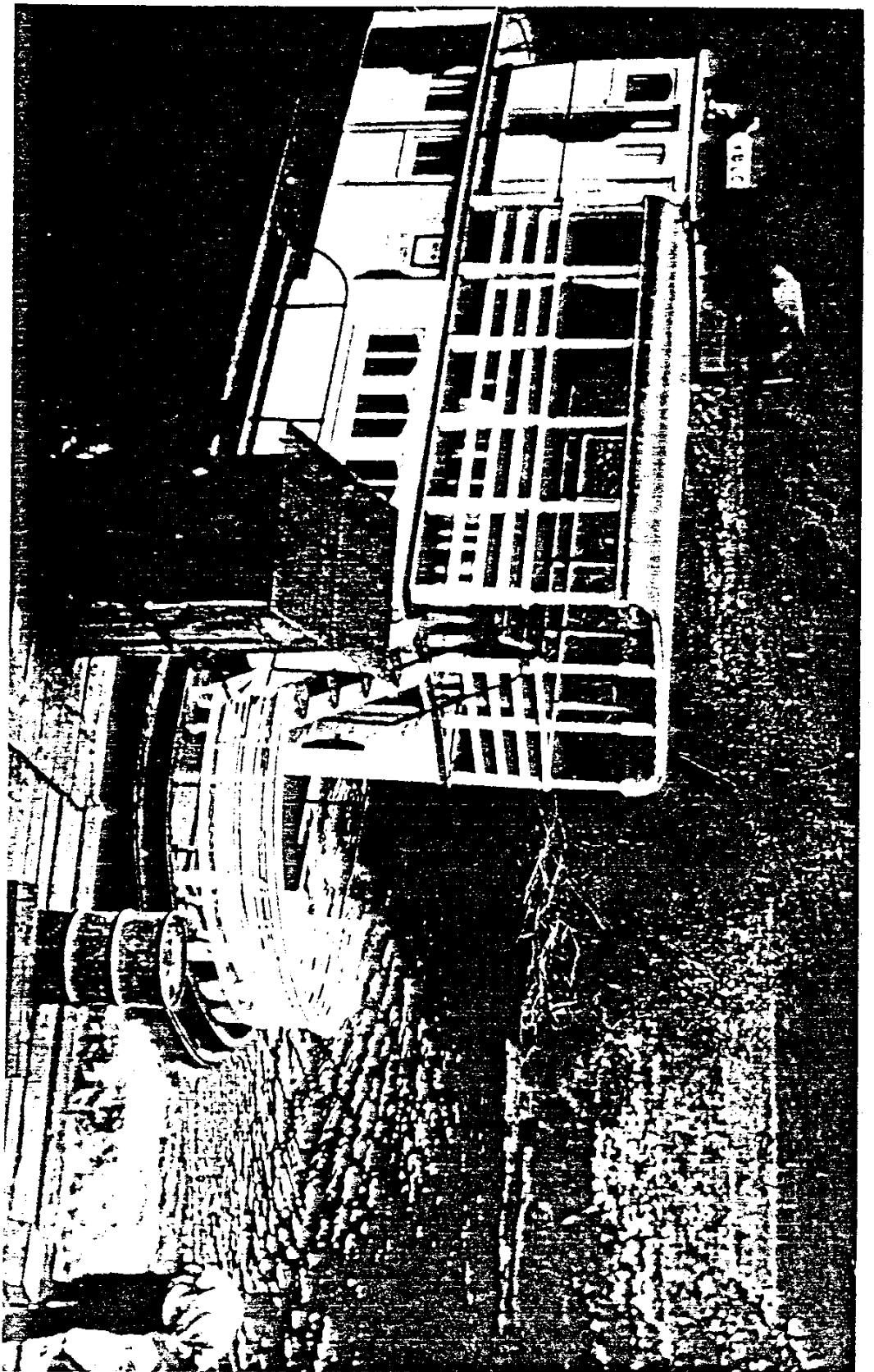


Fig. 5. The Vulcan on Smith
River during 1930's.
Douglas County Museum photo.



Fig. 6. Row boat of elegant slender lines early used on lower Smith River. Douglas County Museum photo.

"though we do not like sending our scows up the creeks-take care not to ground her or get her snagged."¹¹

At the present time the U. S. Corps of Engineers recognizes the navigability of Smith River to River Mile 23.1 and the North Fork to River Mile 1.2. In addition it recognizes the navigability of several tidal sloughs and creeks (Fig. 1).

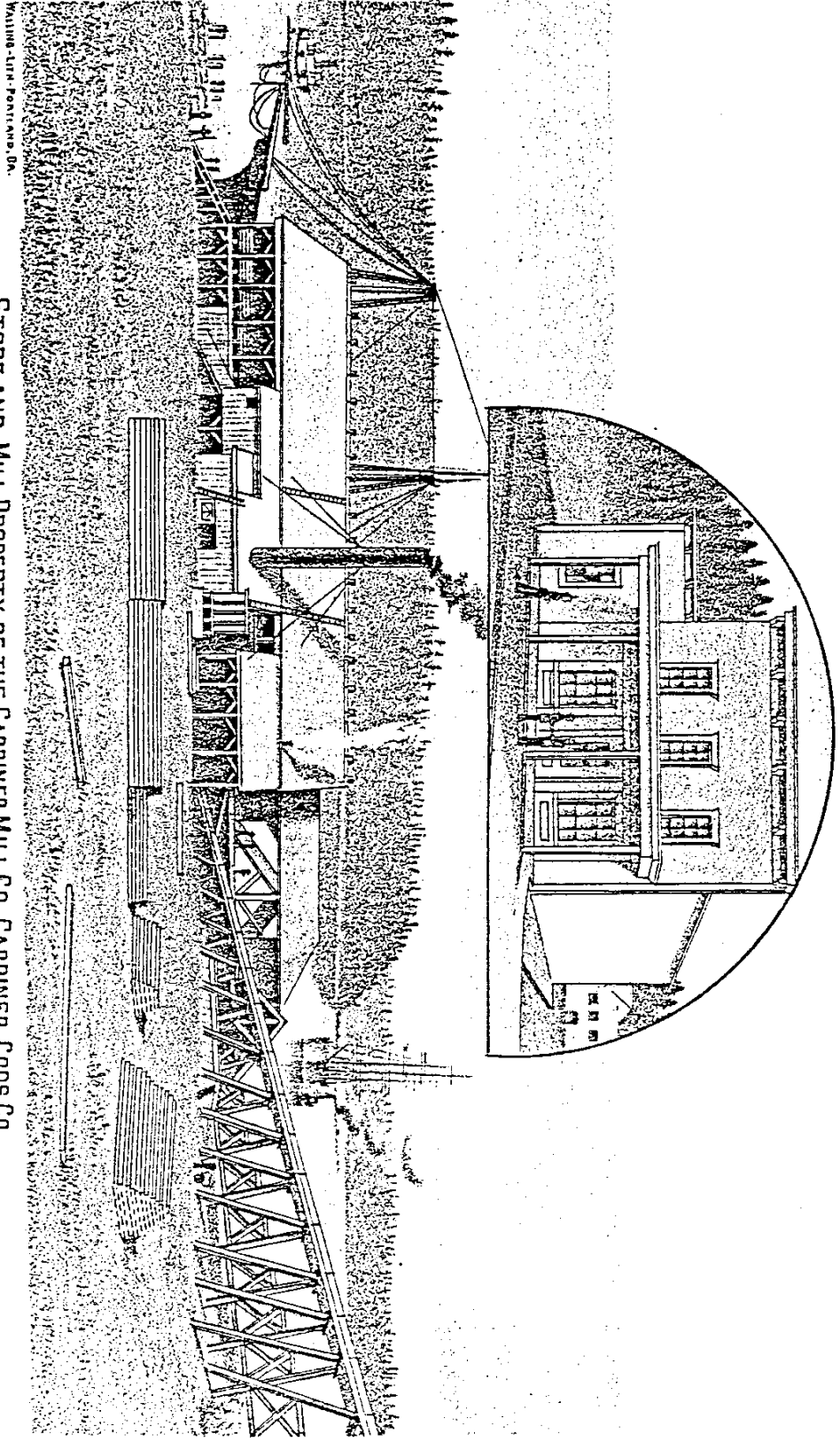
LOG DRIVES

Screw jack and bullteam logging began on the tidal portions of Smith River in 1864 for a newly built sawmill at Gardiner (Figs. 7, 9). This mill passed to G. S. Hinsdale and partners in 1877, W. F. Jewett in 1881, and then was organized under the Gardiner Mill Company of San Francisco.¹²

The Roseburg Plaindealer stated that on April 12, 1872 William A. Turner drowned while floating logs down a tributary of Smith River about 20 miles above Gardiner [probably the North Fork].¹³ Asa Henderson, an 87 year old resident of Reedsport in 1954, recalled that his father had begun contract logging for Gardiner Mill Company in 1875 (Figs. 8, 15). When Asa began working for his father in 1877, logs were floated to the mill using the winter freshets. The loggers' brands were recorded with the Gardiner Mill Company¹⁴ - the only market - and no Smith River brand was ever registered with the Douglas County Clerk. During the 1880's, newspapers indicate that logs continued to come down from above tidewater during freshets, some rafted by Pat and James Cowan, but from how high up the river is unknown. In March 1896 it was reported that loggers descending Smith River in a boat swamped and had to hike out 40 miles.¹⁵

Another early resident of the river, George Perkins born in 1874 the son of a transplanted Maine logger, set down his recollections of its early logging history of which he had been an eager student:¹⁶

I can visualize our family and a few loggers sitting before our large fireplace on a stormy evening, telling tales of early-day logging and the different places they had worked. Being quite young, I drank in every word that was said and it thrilled me with excitement to hear my father tell of his boyhood days, taking a man's place breaking log jams in dangerous places and riding the logs downstream to the mill. Some times it took weeks in swift-running water to complete a drive. The main object was to keep the logs on the move in narrow places, in order to keep them from bunching and jamming. When a log jam formed the main object



WALLING-LIFE FONTANA, DR.

STORE AND MILL PROPERTY OF THE GARDINER MILL CO, GARDINER, COOS CO,
1883

Fig. 7.



Fig. 8. Ace Henderson or
Ashworth logging outfit on
Smith River.
Douglas County Museum.



Fig. 9. Bull team logging
on Smith River, 1890's,
Douglas County Museum.

was to break it up and keep the logs moving, otherwise they would continue to pile up until there would be millions of feet of logs in one pile..... I have had similar experiences on the North Fork of Smith river, but mine were only pocket editions compared to his encyclopedia.

Along the river were designated places to eat and sleep during the drive. If their luck was good, everthing was fine and dandy; if not, they would have to walk several miles in order to eat. After the drive was over they would collect their wages and settle down for the winter.....

On the North Fork....we kids used to walk up and take a stand opposite the rollway when Ward was logging to see the logs come rolling down and into the North Fork.

Perkins set down a catalog of Smith River log drivers many of those families are also memorialized in the names of the Smith's tributaries (photos of some of these loggers are in Figs. 9, 11, 15, 16, 22):

Names of old time loggers that I have known, and some before my time that I have heard my father speak of and that worked for him from the time he first started to work in the woods here in 1865.

1865 to 1875

Ben Ellsworth, Joe Ellsworth (brothers), cousins of Pop's; Jeff Dennison; Joe Rhodes; Tom Poppin; Sam Craft; Bill Wood; Joe Grove; John Adams; Billie Moore; John Lyster; Gard Chisolm; Kert Johnson; John Sherrett; Solomon Perkins; Leon Kassaer(?); Henry Bryant; and R. M. Chapman.

The crop of 1875-1890

Chas. Haskell; M. V. Leach; Chris Hacker; in Sulphur Springs and vicinity John Cowan and sons, Pat Cowan, Johnny Cowan and Peter Cowan; Hugh Anderson; Robert Wade; John Dailey; Bill Smith; the singer; Bill Johnson; Willard Johnson; Chas. Perkins; Fred Perkins; Ed Murphy; George Murphy; Will Murphy; Milton Sherrett; Dick Lyster; Henry Hansen; Ed Hansen; John Wroe; Wm. Wroe; Ed Wroe; Chas. Johnson; Ole Johnson; Tom Cowan; Dave Cowan; Geo. Perkins; Lincoln Blackwell; Frank Whitaker; Henry Bay; Will Bay; Bob Bay; Wm. Peck; Bill Dewar; Dennis Obrien (O'Brien?); Bern Hunt; Joe Hunt; Johnny Joice; Pat Daley; Sam Wilson; Johnny Leach; Frank Leach; Hughie Cassiday; Johnny Cassiday; Frank Cassiday; Harry Woodruff; Will Elliott; Emil Elliott; Tom Letsom; Cal Garrett; Frank Perry; Dan Cassiday; Bill Bluck; Walter Herron; Jim Butler; Robt Hood; Frank Spencer; Alec Forslund; Jens Hansen; Gilbert Carnes; John Hewitt; Chris Pyritz; Aug Pyritz; Jim Compton; Henry Winters; Chas Winters; Chas Pyritz; Paul Pyritz; Otto Pyritz; Paul Pyritz; Harper Workman; Henry Workman; William Chamberlain, Harve Sherrett; Bryron _____; Dennis Waggoner; Stilman Nottage; John Henderson; Ase (Asa) Henderson; Joe Henderson; Tom

Henderson; Joe, Bill and James McCaley (?); Craig Buchanan; "Soapy" Smith; Dic Moore; Ewald Glass; Jessee Abbott; Nick Melvin; Geo. Melvin; Bert Melvin; Jim Macay (Mackay?); Jim Johnson; Geo. Ross; Durius (Darius?) Vanderburg; Chas. Vanderburg; Ewald Pyritz; Joe Schaffer; John Noel; George and Grant Balderee; Ren McKenney; Jim Patton; Robert Ashworth; Bill Harris; Henry Lucksinger; Tom McGuire; Geo. McAfee; Andrew Johnson; Frank Morrison; Chas. Hartley; Frank Hartley; Mart Andrews; Henry Andrews; John Andrews; Albert Pyritz; John Helmick; Wm. Cain; Ben Wroe; Chas. Holstrom; Chas. Markham; Fred Rapp and Louis Rapp.

From 1890 until I quit the woods in 1906 there was another crop:

Fred Brown; Ed Stein; Ben Perry; Billie Dewar; Algie Dewar; Jim Ross; Al Butler; Herbert Butler; Jim Dolan; Frank Dolan; Pete Dolan; Mike Dolan; Terence Dolan; Joe Dolan; John Tohil; Walter Murphy; Ed Magee; Harry Jurgens; Alf Peck; Duane Peck; Cliff Tucker; Al Ross; John Tone; Simon Kechlie; Dan Campbell; John Campbell; Caddy Nottage; Dan Craig; Glen Noel; Lonnie Nottage; Warren Waggoner; John Sawyers; Ike Sawyers; Alec Sawyers; Frank Seymour; Morrell Melvin; Gus Macey; Fred Johnson; Bert Roberts; Dave Roberts; Geo. Roberts; Alec Esselstrom; Wm. Esselstrom; Ernest Koepke; Harry Henderson; Roy Waggoner; Gus Johnson; Grover Andrews; Hugh Alexander; Roy Peck; Joe Andrews; Joe Morris; Monte Minor; Chas. Wroe; Johnny Wroe; Henry Wroe; Fred Wroe; Louie Lepold; Alec Reison; Johnnie Palmer; Gus Macey; Chas. Miller; Bob Becon; Lawrence Noel; George Vincent, the dirty cook; Artie Smith; Dave Holden; and Frank Hollenbeck.

The Gardiner Mill Company also had occasion to list the operators logging for them on Smith River, 1905-08:¹⁷

June, 1905.	Bert Roberts, W. A. Wroe.	Johnson Brothers. R. G. Balderree.
July, 1905	R. G. Balderree, Ole Olson, Henry Bore, Jr.,	H. C. Miller. J. B. Abbott. Chas, J. Marks.
Aug. 1905	Jim Johnson, R. G. Balderree,	Fred Johnson. Geo. E. Wroe.
Sept. 1905	J. B. Abbott, Ole Olson, R. G. Balderree.	Al Perkins. H. C. Miller.
Oct. 1905	Al. Perkins J. F. Whitaker, F. L. Jones, R. G. Balderree.	Peter Cowan. J. B. Abbott. H. D. Butler
Mar. 1906	Chas. Johnson, Henry Hanson, W. A. Wroe, R. G. Balderree.	Geo. E. Wroe. Chas. Wroe W. C. Chamberlain.

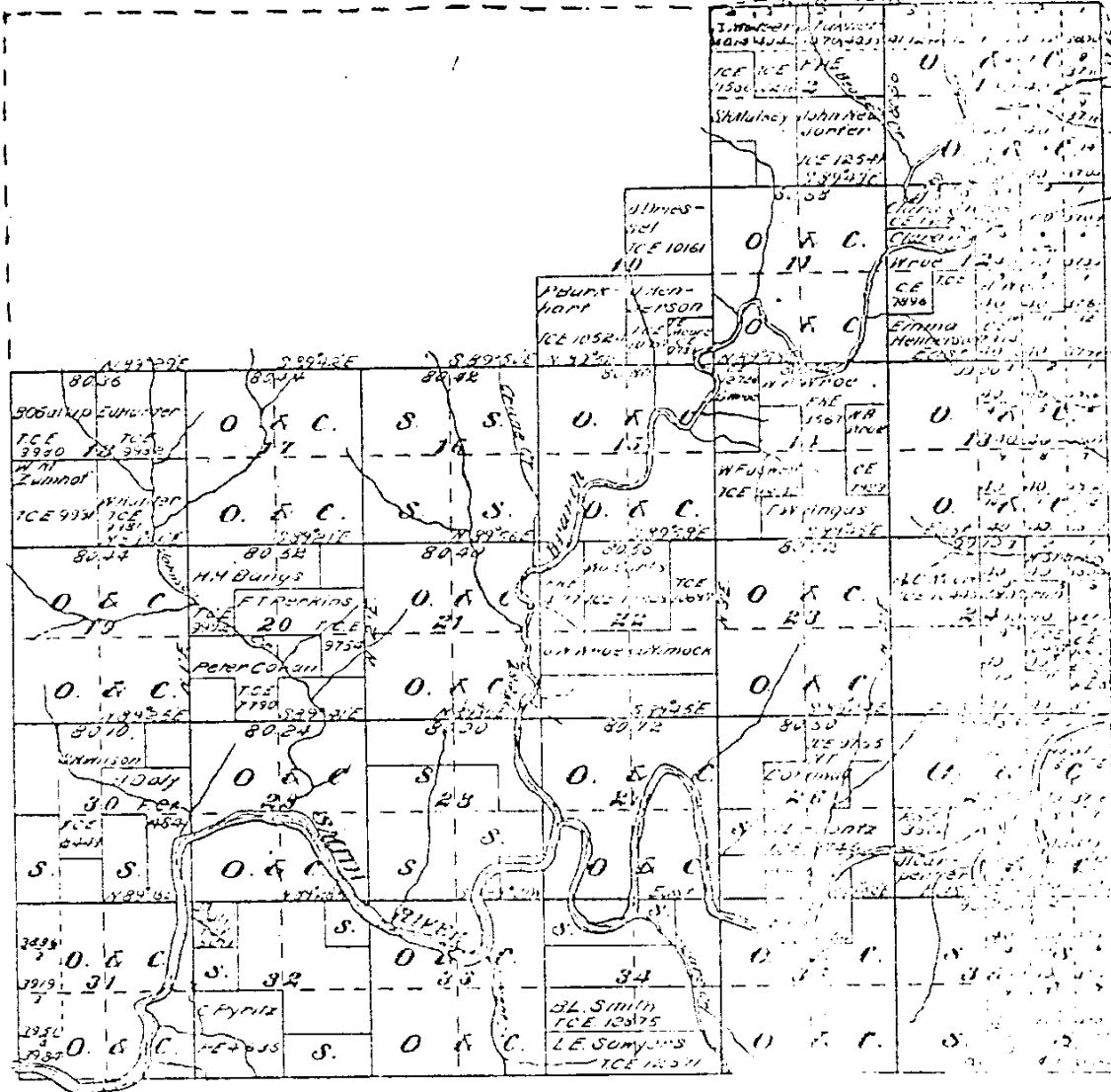
Sept. 1906	Bert Roberts, H. C. Miller, Duane Peck, J. F. Whitaker,	Paul Wessela. Jim Johnson. C. F. Pyritz. L. Blackwell.
Dec. 1906	J. B. Abbott, John Perry.	Mike Dolan.
Oct. 1906	Duane Peck.	
Aug. 1908	Peter Cowan,	Geo. E. Wroe.
Sept. 1908	John & Henry Wroe.	

Perkins continues, "In my boyhood there was but one settlement above the falls on Smith river and that was on the West Branch. I remember well when John, Ben and Will Wroe and John Helmick settled there and hewed themselves homesteads out of the virgin forest adjacent to the falls."¹⁸ The Wroe family arrived in 1888;¹⁹ William Wroe of Grants Pass, J. W. Wroe's grandson, states that his family homesteaded and logged from their lands on the West Fork during the late 1880's and after. They did not use splash dams, but let the winter freshets carry out the logs to the main stream while they walked the banks and prodded them on with pike poles. Some of this logging was carried out on his great aunt Clara Wroe's property near Gold Creek (RM 9). The Helmicks and Williams (in-laws of the Wroes) also logged in the same fashion on the West Fork.²⁰

A plat of Township 20 South, Range 9 West was prepared for the Gardiner Mill Company in 1907 and 1908 by Frank E. Alley of Roseburg (Fig. 10). The landowners from whom the company was then receiving timber, including the Wroes, are noted on the plat. At the same time the plat was prepared, Gardiner Mill Company built a splash dam on W. A. Wroe's land (J. W.'s son and William Wroe's father). They used it to space out the logs which were cut during the summer, so that they would flow out without jamming during the winter freshets into the main stem of the Smith; from there they were floated down to the mill.²¹

Everett Abbott (Fig. 11) visited this splash dam site in 1908 when his sister was cook for Sam Wilson who directed the logging camp there.²² Splashing was used on the West Fork until 1915. The company also had splash dams on Johnson (RM 31; Fig. 12) and Junction Creeks with which they drove logs to the main stem of the

Township No. 20 South, Range No. 9 West, of the Willamette Meridian.



Prepared by Frank E. Alley, Abstractor and Land Attorney, Roseburg, Or.

Fig. 10. Plat from Gardiner Mill Company Correspondence, 1907-08. University of Oregon Library.



Fig. 11. Rollway on
Fingerboard Slough, 1902.
Everrett Abbott at right on
log; Glenn and Leigh Noel,
2nd and 3rd from left, bottom
Douglas County Museum.



Fig. 12.
Splash dam on Johnson Creek.
Douglas County Museum.

river until 1916.²³ There were no splash dams on the main Smith River at any time and the logs had no difficulty passing over Smith River Falls (Figs. 13, 14).²⁴

W. A. Wroe also logged Scare Creek (RM 36.7), Twin Sisters Creek (RM 44), and the main stem of the Smith in the Twin Sisters area from whence the logs were floated to tidewater on the winter freshets. Chris Hacker (Fig. 22), whose mark was two hacks on a log, had a much larger camp in the Twin Sisters area and took out logs on the freshets between 1900 and 1916 as did Peter Calm.²⁵ Further information on logging in the Twin Sisters area and other aspects of Smith River logging geography come from the files of the Douglas County Museum (Fig. 15):²⁶

John Daily logged at Twin Sisters... His logging operations there ran from early 1880's until about 1905... Daily had some cleared land and grew feed for his bull teams at Twin Sisters location.

In March 1906 J. M. Dailey wrote to Roseburg that a small freshet had "started some of the logs out, but they have not had a good freshet up Smith River for three years."²⁷ Continuing from the Museum file on Smith River:

Hay from various farms along lower Smith River was bailed and packed into various bull team logging camps. There was a log boom (Gardiner Mill Co.?) on or near the John Cowan ranch at Sulphur Springs. [Fig. 16]

B. W. Dorsey drove a team logging on the North Fork of Smith River around 1888-89..... Sam Wilson had at least two camps on the West Branch of Smith River (above falls?). Upper Camp had bull team logging and splash dams; lower camp had 2 donkeys, one was taken in about 1915. These donkey engines were barged up Smith River as far as they could be floated, were then unloaded and fired up and yarded themselves right up the stream bed to the camp. Logs were placed to form a chute or slide in order for them to pass up over Smith River falls.....

The Pyritz family logged at a number of locations along Smith River [Fig. 17]. Camp 3 was the Gardiner Mill Company's "low water" show; this camp was located below Gardiner on the north side of the Umpqua. It was used when the water in Smith River was too low to permit rafting logs down to the mill..... Gardiner Mill Co. (?) had a big splash dam at Johnson Creek on Smith River [Fig. 12].



Fig. 13. Log deck at Smith
River Falls.
Douglas County Museum photo.

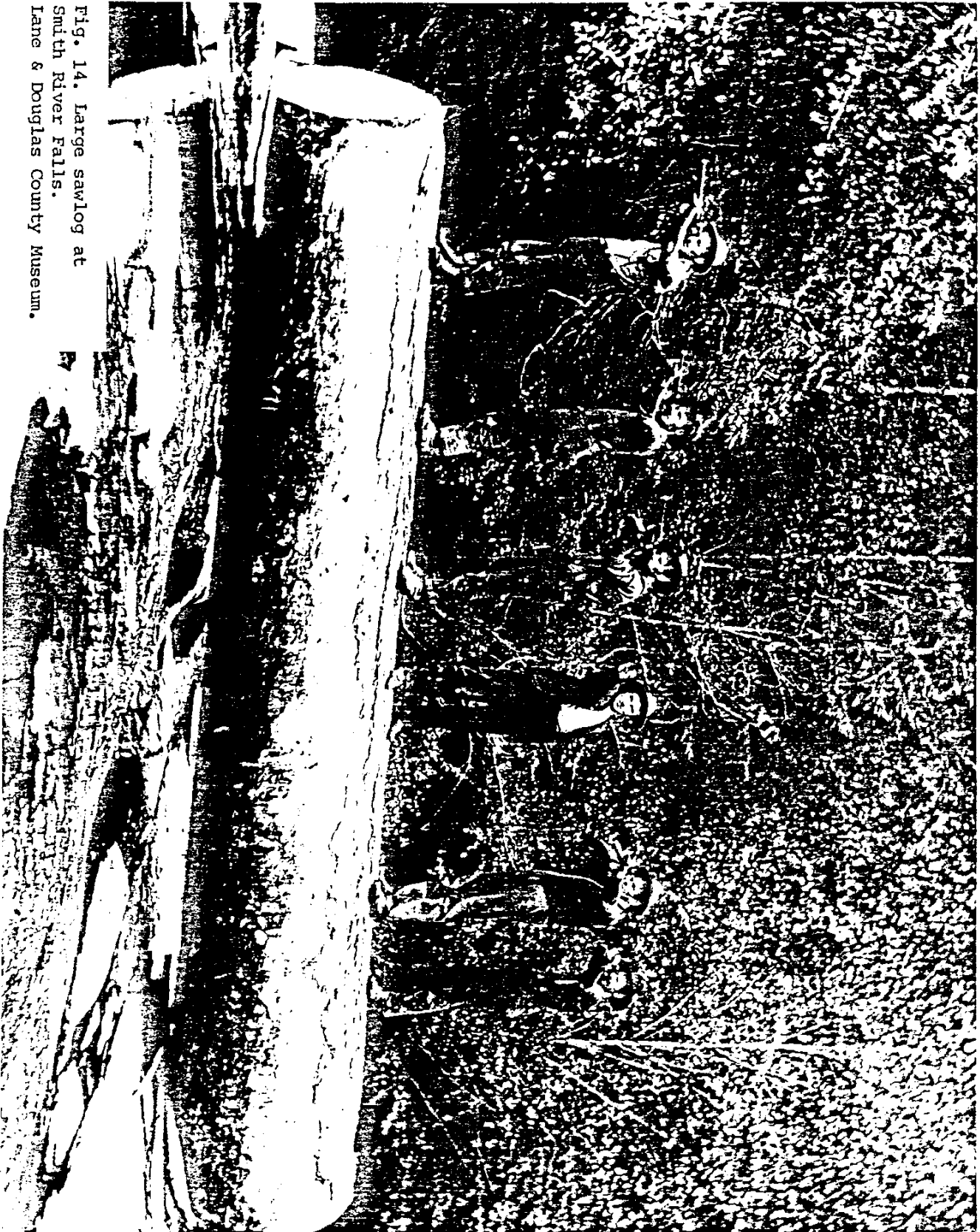


Fig. 14. Large sawlog at
Smith River Falls,
Lane & Douglas County Museum.



Fig. 15. Jack Dailey's log
branding hammer, center.
Douglas County Museum.

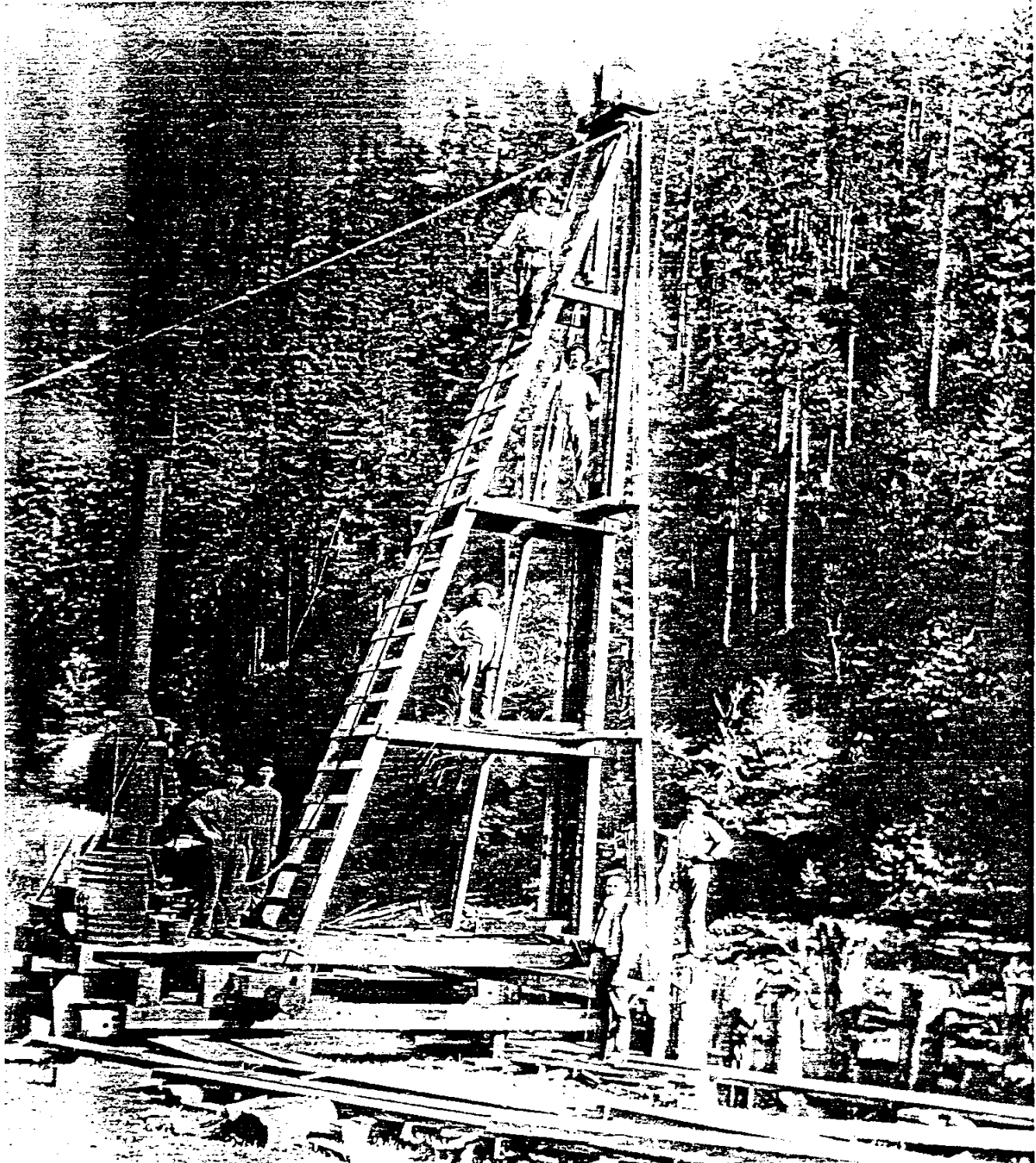


Fig. 16. Pile driver at Sulphur Springs Boom; Fred Seymore, Asa Henderson, Charles Hanson, Joe McCahey, John Cowan, Sr., John Henderson, Homer Hanson. Douglas County Museum.

Fig. 17. Albert Pyritz logging with mules on Smith River. Douglas County Museum.



Sherrett Bros. logged on the North Fork of Smith River in 1894 and 1897; later Ben McKinney put logs in on this fork.²⁸

Other loggers sent down logs from as far upriver as Gunter (RM 73.5) and Woolley (RM 82)! The son of Gunter's founder, John Gunter born in 1899, recalled these loggers;²⁹

There wasn't any good road. There was an old man who lived in here though... his name is Rennie, Ed Rennie, and he skidded logs into the river, had an old capstan that they used, had an old wheel on it. Had one of those sweeps that the horses go around and around, and pull that capstan, and they logged into the river with that. My oldest brother, Marion, worked for him for a number of years, and every winter they'd have to go down and clear the river out, and then they'd float the logs down to Gardiner, over to the sawmill, and they'd buy the logs... half of them [that were cut] got through.

Q. Around what time was this?

Well, he was here in 1908, or 1909. I know, 'cause my... sister Rena born in 1909, she was named Edith but they called her after Rennie.

Oh, there was other people, I couldn't tell you about them. Hardenbrooks were one, couple three of them [Hardenbrook Creek, RM 69]. They logged down in there, same way as Ed Rennie did.

Renie and other upper Smith River loggers wrote to Gardiner Mill Co. about payment for their logs. From December 1907 through December 1908 he asked if any of his logs had come into the boom from upriver that winter, were they scaled, and please send \$100-200 on account in payment. His brand was 55.³⁰ Everett Abbott remembered some logs branded 55 which came down from Gunter area and were so exceptionally fine and large that no one downriver dared keep one or substitute his brand on them³¹ G. W. Woolley himself also wrote to the mill:

logged in 115 logs since October, and they went down the river on the freshet about Christmas time, and no doubt a good portion of them will reach the boom. They are branded with an H.T.

Woolley again wrote in early May 1907 asking if any of his logs had gotten down, because if they had he would log in the summer.³² The mill replied that they had not seen any, but had not cleared the boom since the last freshet.

For their part the mill company said "Our business with loggers on Upper Smith River has been... unsatisfactory."³³ When Thomas Molony offered them timber land near River Mile 87 of Smith River in 1908 they said it was out of their territory and would be too far upriver to handle for some time in the future. Its present value to them was only \$10 an acre.³⁴ The upriver settlers continued, however, to attempt to send down logs. In December 1914 the mill company advised J. O. Gunter:³⁵

In regard to the brand on your logs, we consider that you should use "J.O." instead of "55" [which he had purchased of Renie], since there are already logs of the "55" brand in Smith River. These letter "J.O." should be not less than two inches in diameter and we advise you to be careful in branding the logs at both ends and on several parts of each end, since, in coming down the river, the log brands often get badly mashed so that they are unintelligible.

R. E. Teague wrote the company in November 1915:³⁶

I have just started between two and three hundred thousand [board feet of] logs down on the recent freshet. Don't know if any will get all the way or not for the water run down so fast but if any arrives there please let me know as soon as you find out for I am anxious to know if any went all the way for there may be I'll have to do more work on the river. I have about 100 thousand I didn't get started. My Brand is T.

Probably the latest drive from the Upper Smith was mounted by George Woolley and Fred Clark in late November 1916 just before Gardiner Mill Company burned completely never to reopen:³⁷

This is to inform you that we are cutting logs for your mill. Until further notice we will cut the logs on the West $\frac{1}{4}$ S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 33- tp 20 S. range 6 W [RM 81!]- using the star brand - and on the S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ sec 27 tp-20S-R.7W- using the diamond brand [RM 73-74]. At this writing we have 29 logs cut and in the river - and for the next few days we will improve the river - after which time we will resume logging operations again.

Judging by the Mill company's correspondence, log driving from Upper Smith River was chancy at best. The recollections of Earl Ensley of Drain probably give an accurate reflection of these efforts:³⁸

There was people tried to float logs down from up Smith River... but that was never a success... You started out with four or

five hundred logs, you probably get there with 10 or 15. Very discouraging but every once in a while, you know, people get ambitious and they think the other guy didn't do it right and he would do it, but you know nobody ever made a nickle at it.

Meanwhile Gardiner Mill Company continued to receive large numbers of logs from its own camps on the Smith River which were above the head of tide, but lower on the river. In December 1914 they reported to their San Francisco office:³⁹

We had a fairly good freshet... From reports received last evening from our raftsmen we feel that there are between 7500 and 10000 logs in our Smith River boom and as these logs will average probably 750 feet, we have in the neighborhood of six million feet of fairly good timber in our Smith River Boom.

Peter Cowan's camp was taking out logs for the company between River Miles 26 and 27 in May 1916,⁴⁰ and when the company obtained a franchise from the Public Service Commission in April 1918, it extended to the source of Smith River at River Mile 89 - in case they should ever begin operations again.⁴¹ The highest point on the Smith that the company ever had a camp was River Mile 60.⁴²

In September 1943 the Ox Bow Logging Company made inquiry with the Public Utilities Commission about getting their timber out from the headwaters of the West Fork and below River Mile 78 of the Smith, but whether they ever used these waterways to transport their logs is not known.⁴³

William Wroe thinks his nephews bucked and drove some windfalls from the Upper Smith in the 1940's or 50's.⁴⁴

Umpqua River Log Drives

Additional material has been discovered regarding the use of the Umpqua River for log drives. The first entrepreneurs to attempt this venture were Dr. J. T. W. Saubert and Frank H. Noble in 1878. The partners had run a combination flour and sawmill at Norwalk, Wisconsin during the previous five years and like other pioneers expected to enlarge their prospects in Oregon. Noble came out first and scouted a good millsite on the land of Thomas Smith adjoining the North Umpqua near Wilbur, "a good place to catch logs." The mill was established in May, but its output was mostly diverted to construct a second mill about three-quarters of a mile up the South Umpqua from Roseburg. Noble had been persuaded by John Flook and his partners to help them construct a dam across that river. Flook planned to use one bank for a flour mill, Saubert & Noble could use the other for their sawmill. The Roseburg dam and sawmill neared completion at the end of the year and the immigrant partners had logs put in the river near Canyonville during December 1878. They blasted rocks and obstructions in the South Umpqua and put in side piers to aid the drive, but the low water of that winter was not sufficient to bring down the logs.⁴⁵

Their logs did come down during the following winter, and the Roseburg Western Star boasted:⁴⁶

A number of saw logs cut by Saubert & Noble last season, floated down the river on the recent raise and a majority of them were safely lodged in the boom. This demonstrates the practicability of running logs in the South Umpqua and adds a new and important industry to our city.

Unfortunately for the partners, the Umpqua had not finished its winter flood, and the next week the Western Star briefly related that their boom and dam had washed away with the loss to the partners of many thousands of dollars. The Mill at Gardiner captured some of the sugar pine logs before they washed out to sea; others were left stranded above high water between Canyonville and Roseburg.⁴⁷

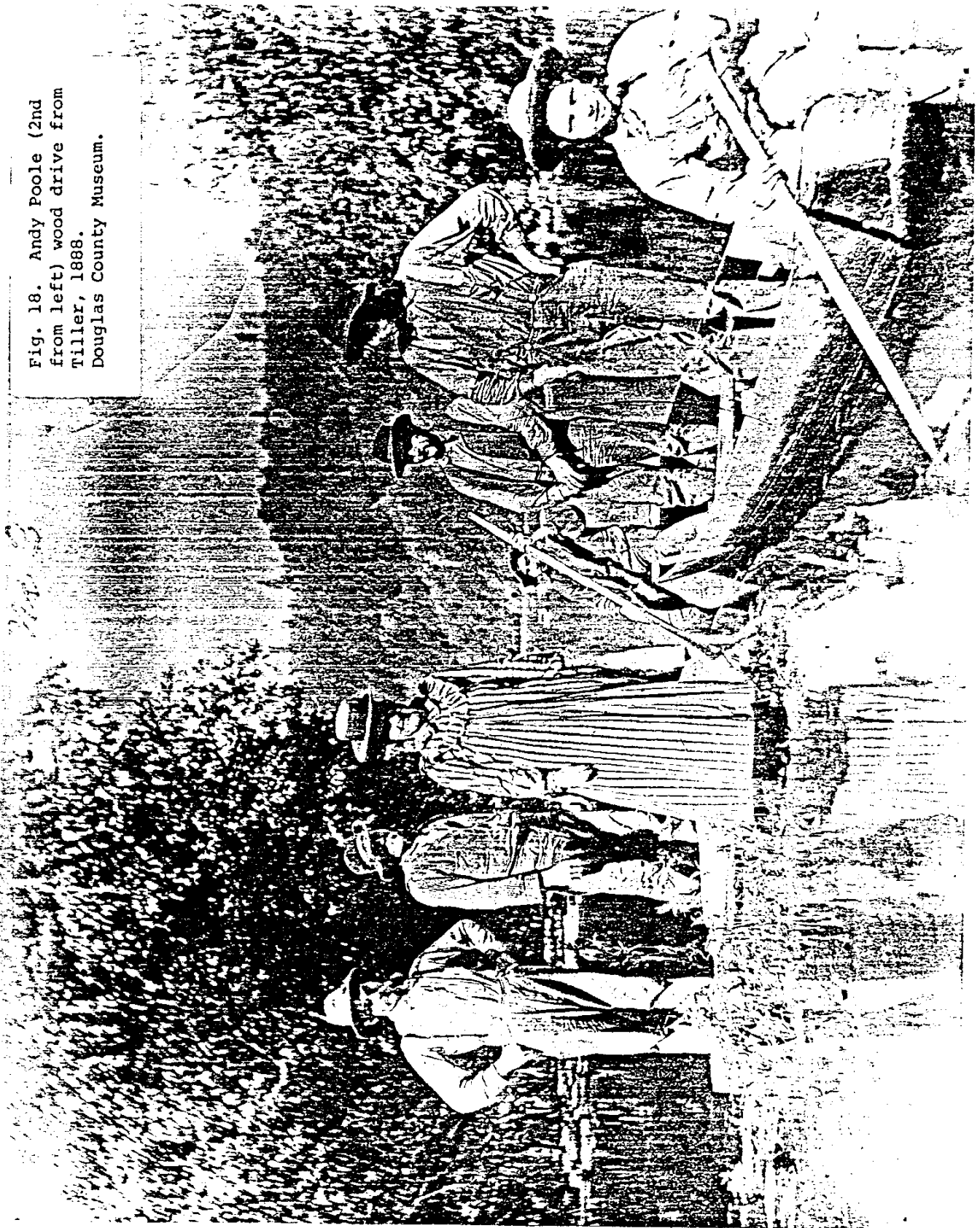
In addition to Saubert & Noble's drive, a sawmill operator at Canyonville attempted to raft cut lumber down the river to Roseburg on another occasion, but the rafts broke up and all the lumber was lost along the South Umpqua.⁴⁸ The Douglas County Museum possesses a photograph of a house constructed from this ill fated lumber.

About a decade after the Saubert & Noble log drive, Joseph Micelli tried to use the river for another timber product. He "had some wood cut up at Dillard's and had a man to try and drive it and they abandoned it, they would come to places where it was so shallow that they had to roll and carry it in order to get it to go, and we just let it go, it was an experiment of course..... Out of ten cords we got six cuts" at Roseburg. Micelli also floated some small four foot logs, but had a very hard time stopping them.⁴⁹ Contemporaneously one Poole cut cordwood at Tiller (RM 75!) and floated it down to Roseburg with equally poor results (Fig. 18). It was almost all lost because the boom at Roseburg could not hold it.⁵⁰

With such experiences it is not surprising that the Oregon Supreme Court in 1909 declared the South Umpqua an unnavigable river (61 Or 82). The reasons for this conclusion are apparent from the accounts of successive failures to use the river for flotation. A supply of logs could only be found many miles from Roseburg, which would provide the market for the lumber, but the flows were too low most of the time to get them to the mill. When the river was high enough, its gradient was so steep and flows so strong that no boom could hold the logs or wood as they came downriver.

There were more promising beginnings in driving the North Umpqua. In 1876 William Patterson built a small sawmill about three miles above Glide. John Livingston and his brother logged for him with oxen, rolling the logs down steep hillsides and floating them to the mill on the river. During the same year, William Trask built a sawmill lower down near Mt. Scott (RM 28.5). Meshek Tipton

Fig. 18. Andy Poole (2nd from left) wood drive from Tiller, 1888. Douglas County Museum.



bought the Patterson mill in 1878 and moved it a mile below Glide where they put in a boom during March 1880.⁵¹ After their disaster on the South Umpqua, Saubert & Noble returned to the northern branch of the river and bought the Trask mill in July 1890. Both mills were reported to be putting out good lumber in October of that year, but Noble lost his logs from high water during the first logging season.⁵² Walling described the two mills in 1883:⁵³

Two small mills only are upon the North Umpqua. Of these, Patterson's Mill, owned now by Tipton & Sons, stands upon the banks of the river a mile below the East Umpqua. Steam is the motive power and there are double circulars, edgers, trimmers, a planer, etc... Its capacity is from 10,000 to 13,000 feet of lumber per day, most of which finds a market at Roseburg. The other mill spoken of is located one mile below the Patterson, having nearly the same capacity. The motive power is water. The mill... manufactures ordinary lumber, doors, windows, shingles, etc. The average price of rough lumber, fir, per thousand has been about ten dollars while sugar pine has brought twenty-five dollars.

The 1880 Census confirmed that these two sawmills received logs "on the South Umpqua River."⁵⁴ It also identified five loggers, six mill laborers, a millwright and "Chas. Briggs, running logs" as residing in the precinct. The mills were producing in 1887, but whether they still obtained their logs on the river is not known.⁵⁵

The most impressive effort to drive the North Umpqua occurred in the decade after 1899. It was evidently stimulated by the realized plans to construct a hydroelectric dam at Winchester, a barrier to the river's strong flow which might allow the successful booming of logs - the major problem in using the river for logging purposes. A series of loggers liens testifies to the failure of T. S. Johnson to construct a boom of 7-8000 logs fastened together with chains at that site in 1899. He planned to drive a mixed lot of 207,833 feet of fir, pine, oak and laurel to it from seven miles above during the autumn, but they remained where felled.⁵⁶ Speculation of a booming project continued, however, and Moore C. Gregory obtained a franchise from Douglas County to improve the river on September 9, 1901.⁵⁷

Meanwhile Louis G. Dumbleton secured vacation of part of the platted portion of Winchester from the Douglas County Court,⁵⁸ and Fred J. Blakely formed the Oregon Boom and Timber Company.

According to W. R. Vinson, it was Dumbleton that commissioned the first dam at Winchester. Charles Briggs, who by this time had moved to Coles Valley, erected an unsatisfactory structure which Vinson perfected by cribbing after Briggs' dam washed out. Ben Fisher secured some of the logs for the structure with an ox team; all the logs came from the flats and bluffs immediately adjacent to the site. Dumbleton was a wealthy and opinionated Englishman who so interfered with the operation of the sawmill which he built at the dam that the workers quit and the mill remained idle for two years.⁵⁹

It was through Blakeley's Oregon Boom and Timber Company that the effort to develop a large sawmill at Winchester came together. Blakeley purchased a quitclaim to Gregory's right to float, transport, and boom logs, lumber, timber and wood on the Umpqua, and on January 8, 1902 had the franchise confirmed to his company by the Douglas County Court. That body had already permitted him to use "giant" powder to improve the North Umpqua for log drives by blasting obstructions from the channel. Blakeley's plans to obtain exclusive use of the North Umpqua ran into fierce opposition from the Roseburg Plaindealer, but his petition was changed to accommodate objections and was confirmed in 1903.⁶⁰ The company's boom on the North Umpqua broke in February 1904, but later that spring they constructed cribs and booms on the river and cut logs to be used at the Winchester boom.⁶¹ During April, one of the log drivers drowned bringing these logs from 23 miles east of Roseburg.⁶² Blakeley completed the basis for the company's operation by purchasing Dumbleton's sawmill and leasing from him 900 acres in Winchester adjacent to the south bank of the North Umpqua (Fig. 19).⁶³

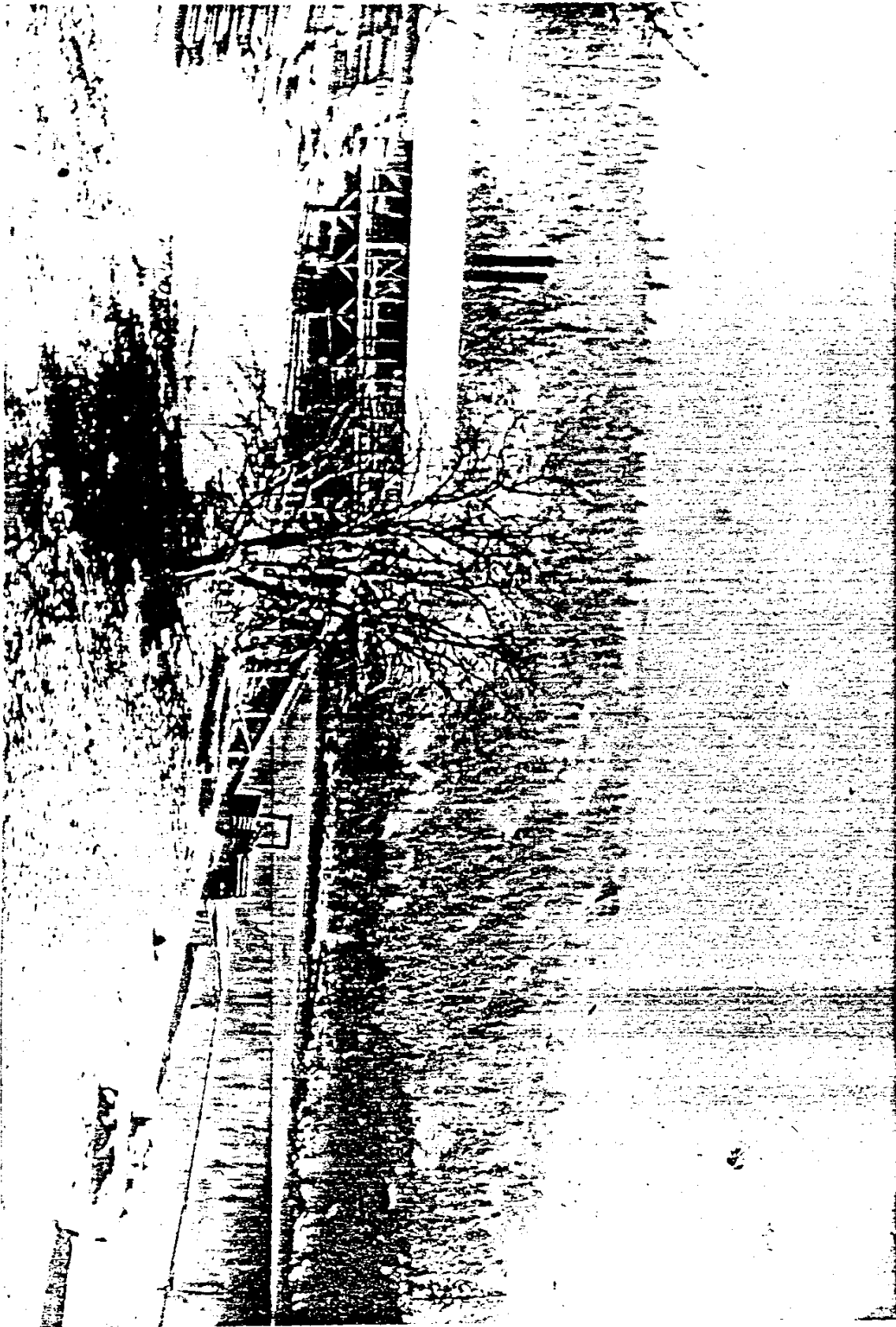


Fig. 19. Umpqua Improvement's
sawmill at Winchester Dam,
1909.
Douglas County Museum.



Fig. 20. Honey Creek log
drive for UIC, 1909.
Douglas County Museum.

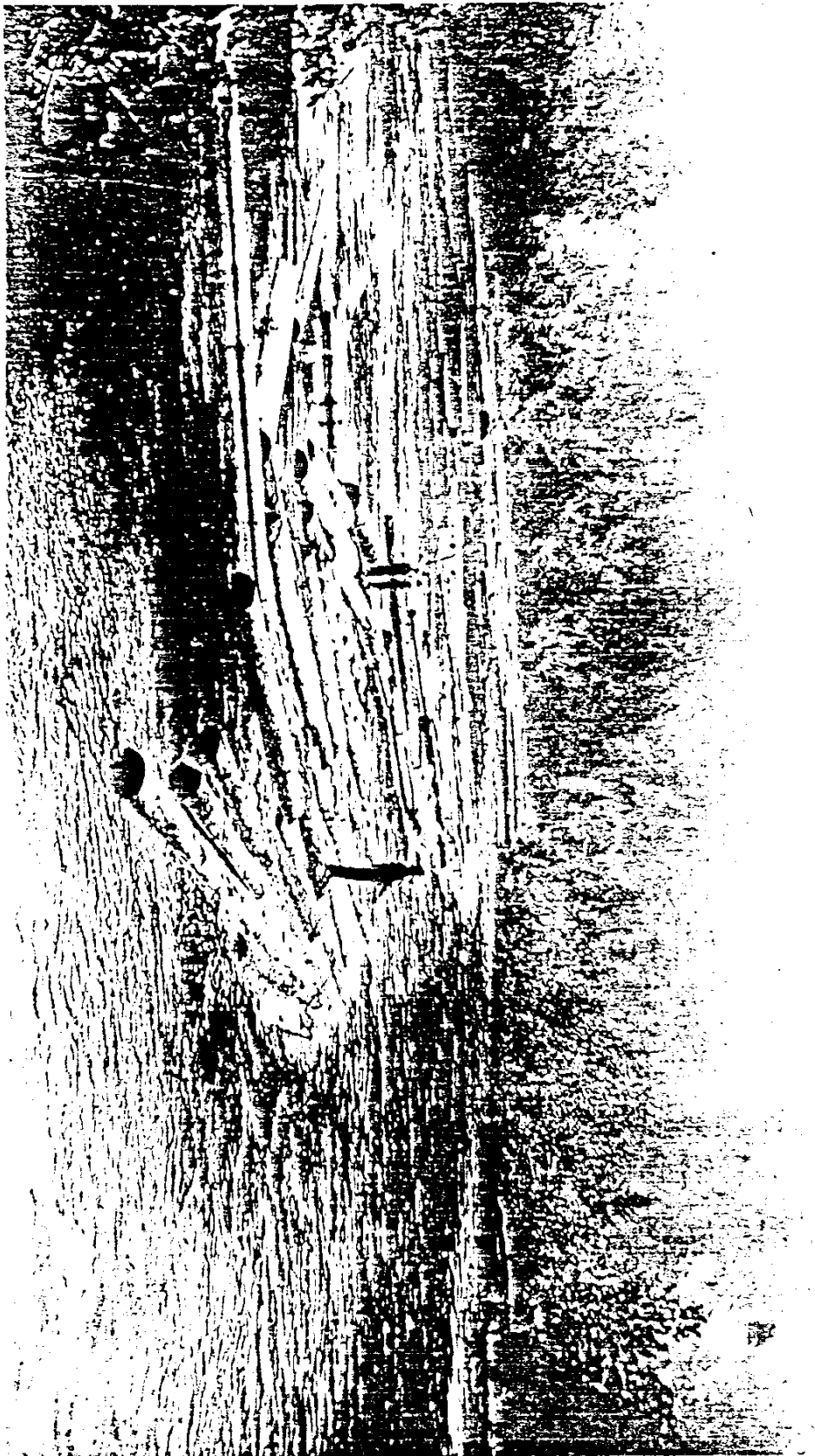


Fig. 21. Log drive on North
Umpqua, probably 1909.
Douglas County Museum.

By early August 1904, Blakeley's firm had been transformed into the Umpqua Improvement Company with an access of eastern capital. That month the Timberman carried this glowing description of the company's plans written by its president, George A. Steel:⁶⁴

The Umpqua Improvement Company are now erecting, at [Winchester], a sawmill with a capacity of about 50,000 feet per day, on the south side of the North Umpqua River. Early in the coming year the Company expects to raise the dam in the North Umpqua River, and put in head gates, crib work, etc., necessary in the construction of a boomage ground and log pond capable of holding from 40,000,000 to 50,000,000 feet of logs. This pond will be absolutely shut away from any danger of loss of logs, even at extreme high water, and will enable the company to run their mill continuously, without risk of loss from this source.

As soon as the boomage ground and log pond is completed, the company will proceed with the erection of a sawmill having a capacity of 100,000 feet per day.

This company controls the franchise for running logs and other forest products in the North Umpqua River as well as all the available space for boomage grounds, and sawmill sites at this point. Owing to the fact that the Southern Pacific Railroad crosses this river at right angles, at Winchester, this is the only point from which lumber shipments can be made..... This company has already secured timber [a large percentage sugar pine], at its present estimated capacity to last it for at least ten years.

The North Umpqua River has been pronounced, by experts in the driving of streams, to be the best driving stream in Oregon or Washington [!] It is singularly free from shifting sand bars and gravel shoals, which make the navigation of many streams for sawlogs troublesome and expensive. About \$100,000 has been expended in improvements upon the stream, in blasting rocks and removing obstructions, and this work will be completed by the construction of shear booms, where necessary, during the present low stage of water.

The company did not register its Brand, U, with the Douglas County Clerk until January 9, 1906.⁶⁵ A week later their manager, Grant Taylor:⁶⁶

stated that about 1,250,000 feet of logs had been dumped into the river at Rock Creek [RM 35.6], about 25 miles above Winchester, and that some of the logs should begin to arrive at the mill within the next few days. Upon their reaching the mill, the logs will be hauled upon dry land, it being deemed inadvisable to try to hold them in high water.

So much for one of Steel's assertions in 1904. The Roseburg Review became enthusiastic a few days later when some of the logs began to arrive at Winchester:⁶⁷

Notwithstanding a rise of seven feet in the river during a period of 24 hours, the logs were safely controlled and held in the river at their destination, demonstrating that logging can be carried on successfully in the river regardless of how high the water might be.

Upriver, 'Glide' also sent a positive report in early February, referring to the company by its old name: "Oregon Boom & Timber Co. has been successful in floating logs so far." Yet by the middle of that month, after a week's milling, the saws shut down because they were not able to secure enough logs.⁶⁸

In early January 1907, Louis G. Dumbleton reported that many sawlogs had gone over Winchester Dam during high water, and Fred Blakeley wrote to the Gardiner Mill Company about them the next month. Simultaneously, however, Kendall Bros., the eastern owners of Umpqua Improvement issued another puff:⁶⁹

'Magnificent Timber'... the Umpquas and their tributaries, which practically drain the entire county, will be the great highways for handling these vast bodies of timber.

The mocking echoes of Saubert & Noble resounded through all these transactions.

Blakeley remained Vice President of the Umpqua Improvement Company and was still employed by them to buy timber claims for 30 miles above Winchester as late as 1909, but during both January and November high waters again took their drives, and swept them over the dam and out to the Pacific (Figs. 20-22):⁷⁰

During the January high waters we have again lost considerable quantity of logs branded with the letter "U" and also with the letter "C" and we would ask that you [Gardiner Mill Company] kindly take them in as previously and allow us for them as they come on to your mill and are scaled. We think we have lost 200,000 feet.

The company stripped their mill of machinery; it had obviously not fulfilled its grandiose plans.



Fig. 22. High water at
Winchester Dam sawmill, 1909.
Douglas County Museum.

Downriver the Umpqua was used for a short-lived and fatal effort to bring logs to a mill at Elkton in 1910. Oscar Warner had logs cut near Kellogg about 12 miles upstream from Elk Creek. In preparing the boom cable, Warner's boat upset and he suffered such injuries before and after his rescue that he succumbed. The mill did not operate, and log driving ceased on that section of the Umpqua as well.⁷¹

Only in the lower four or five miles of the main river above the head of tide did successful driving regularly occur. The Scottsburg correspondent of the Roseburg Plaindealer wrote:⁷²

William Sagabend took advantage of the rise in the river to float his rafts of logs into tidewater. He was as successful as usual.
10 December 1891

Parties who had logs rafted took advantage of high water to run them down the river.

28 March 1895

The recent rise of the river was a boon to those who wished to run logs down to the mill. William Sagabend ran one raft, also the [A. C.] Butler Bros.
11 February 1897

Robert and Fred Grubbe of Long Prairie (RM 34-35) also rafted logs for Gardiner Mill Company in 1897. Chris Hacker put in logs at Big Eddy with oxen (Fig. 23).
⁷³
He:

would bring the logs to a kind of bluff on the other side of the river and they were bringing them in on a kind of skid road. They would run them over, or jack screw them, or anyway they could get them over into the river. There was a deep place and they would raft them to take them down to Scottsburg and ... to Gardiner Lumber Mill.

Miller Bros. even mounted a successful drive of pilings from Elkton to tidewater during the summer of 1914 (Figs. 24, 25).⁷⁴ During the same year J. D. Johnson put in 400 logs at Big Eddy above Scottsburg and took them out in the December high waters.⁷⁵

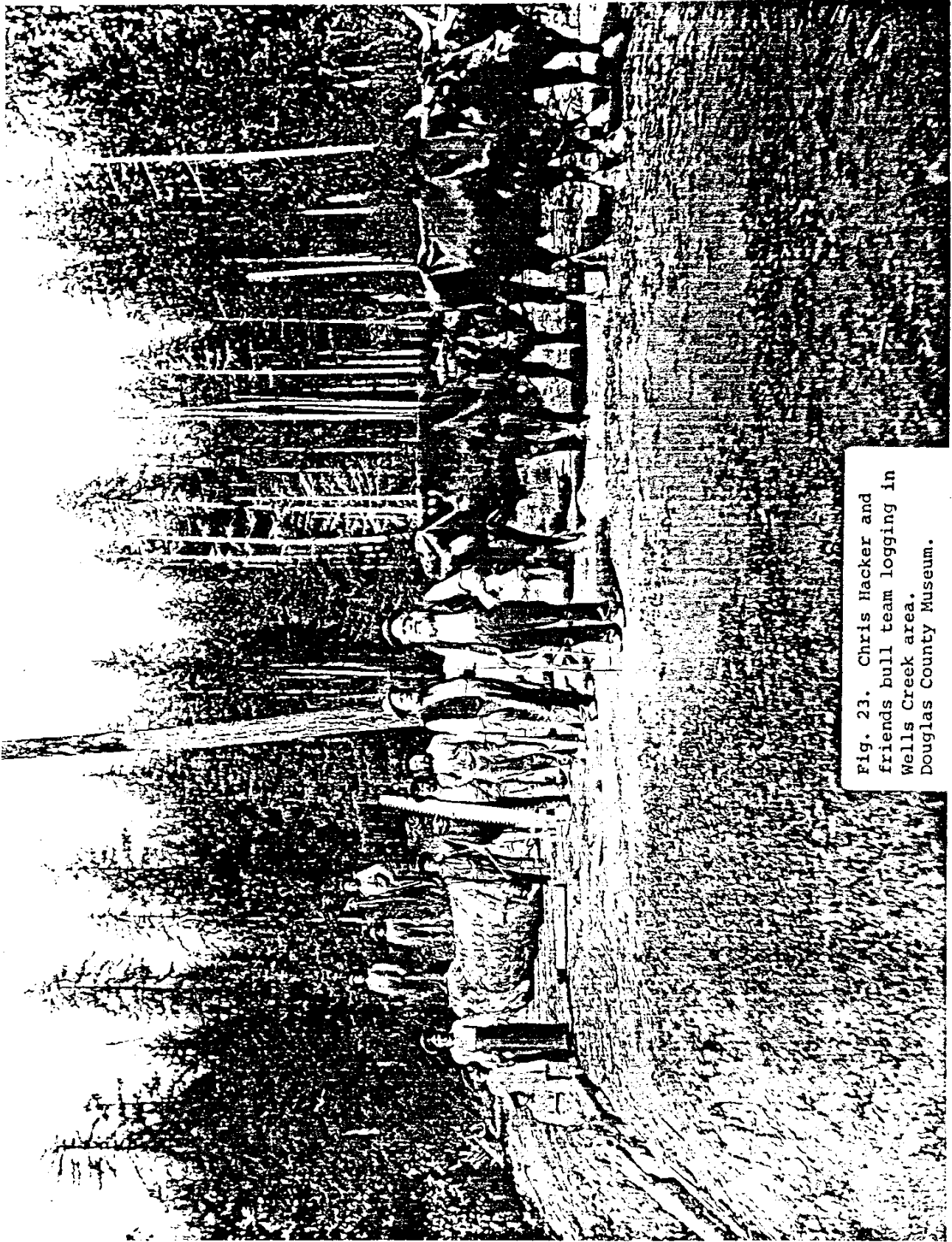


Fig. 23. Chris Hacker and friends bull team logging in Wells Creek area. Douglas County Museum.

Fig. 24. Piling drive circa
1915, Zetta Cook Collection,
Lane County Museum



Fig. 25. Piling drive circa 1915, Zetta Cook Collection. Lane County Museum.



The Great Depression brought forth a final scheme to use the Umpqua from the forks at Melrose to tidewater in order to float out the still virtually untapped forest resources of Douglas County. The U. S. Boom & Logging Co. made application for a franchise on this reach and its important tributaries (except for the preempted Smith River and Mill Creek) in October 1933. During the hearing before the Public Utilities Commissioner at the end of the following month, they argued that the river was the only practicable way to get out the billions of board feet of timber in the area. A quarter of it was attaining the overripe stage and timber owners were losing their holdings at an alarming rate because of tax foreclosures. The corporation foresaw little difficulty in driving the main river, their principle investment would be in booming grounds on the south side of Cannery Island where five raft pockets would be set out in which ocean going log rafts would be constructed. This location in the river's estuary was chosen so that surges from winter freshets would be minimized. Although most of the logs would be floated out to Columbia River or Grays Harbor mills, it was hoped that the booming grounds and use of the main river for log transport would revitalize the saw mills at Reedsport. Such rejuvenation was further anticipated because the Corps of Engineers was extending the jetty and deepening the harbor entrance. This was the last project for driving the main river, the application was never acted upon, and no drives occurred.⁷⁶

COMMERCIAL FISHING

Besides the occasional log drives on the Umpqua, widely spaced in time and place, the river also supported a commercial fishery. In 1903 when the Fish Commission was beginning its licensing program, persons from the following places above Scottsburg on the Umpqua obtained commercial licenses: Roseburg, Umpqua Ferry, Winchester, Millwood, Oakland, Kellog, Elkton, and Wilbur. Most of the devices used were set nets, but C. Harmon and Charley Matthews of Roseburg employed gill nets. Steve and H. F. Pearson Bros. of Winchester used set nets. The latter described their operation (Fig. 26):⁷⁷

When we moved to Winchester [about 1893] my father [James Pearson] bought some nets from an old man who had been doing a little fishing there, and this was the start of about a quarter of a century of salmon fishing by the Pearsons. In the North Umpqua we used the set net in most areas, due to the rough character of the river bed. The gill net and the set net are exactly alike; both are gill nets in that each is designed to catch the fish by becoming entangled in his gills. A set net is anchored or otherwise held stationary, while the gill net is free to drift along with the current when in use. Set nets are efficient only in eddies or in very slow-moving water, hence the many breakwaters that appeared on nearly every available rock or ledge at Winchester; we built these breakwaters of rods and timber to create eddies or slack water, placing our nets below them.

One end of [our set] net was tied to the outer end of one of our breakwaters, from which the net extended downstream along the edge of the current. It was suspended in the water vertically, like a curtain; the upper edge of the net was fastened to a float line of cotton rope kept afloat by wooden or cork floats; the lead line, at the bottom edge of the net, was anchored to each end and kept lying on the bottom of the stream by means of lead sinkers strung or hammered on the 1/4 inch cotton rope of the lead line at whatever intervals were necessary to hold it down. The webbing of the net itself was made of strong linen twine, the meshes of net being of a size calculated to entangle or gill salmon and steelhead of average size.

Our catch of salmon was packed in fish boxes and shipped to market, fresh from the river, aboard the express cars of the Southern Pacific trains that stopped at Winchester station. Most of our fish were shipped to a Salem market, although some were occasionally sold in Eugene, Albany, and Portland.

We kept no records prior to 1908, but in the years that followed the records of Pearson Brothers (my brother Steve and myself) show that we sold 380,548 pounds of dressed salmon, approximately



Fig. 26. Pearson Bros.
fishery at Winchester, 1907.
Douglas County Museum.

Pearson Bros. fishery. May 15, 1907.

450,000 pounds in the round, the majority of which were taken in the Winchester area by the use of set nets.

Upriver at Glide, Robert T. Blakeley recalled in 1938 that salmon had been seined at that location from boats with the net anchored to the shore. A days haul would regularly bring in fifty to sixty fish of 40-60 pounds weight. Millwood reported in March 1901 that fishing there during the past month had been poor, it was "hardly enough to pay the fishermen for their boats and nets."⁷⁸

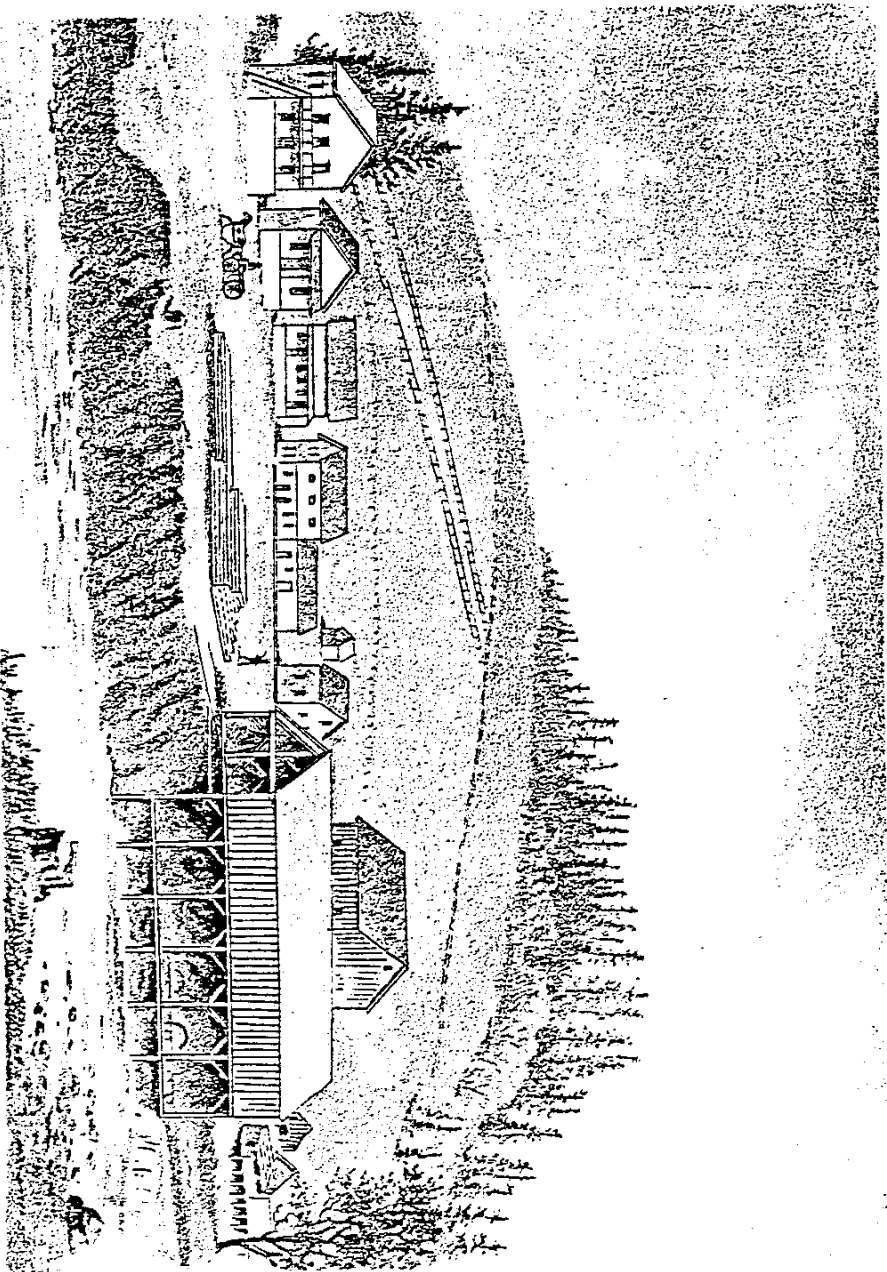
The upriver Umpqua fishery was important enough to warrant a 1911 statute restricting commercial fishing below the Winchester Dam on the North Fork and the Aaron Rose Flour Mill Dam on the South Fork to certain months of the year and prohibiting it above a point 1600 feet below the dams except by hook and line angling at all times.⁷⁹

Fixed net fishing was not the only means used to take fish commercially on the North Umpqua and the main stem as H. F. Pearson related:⁸⁰

In addition to the use of nets, salmon were caught commercially in the Umpqua by trolling with hook and line from a boat. Once I journeyed down the Umpqua in a rowboat to troll for the silverside salmon, and to give the reader an idea how plentiful the supply of fish was in earlier days, I trolled 49 days one season and caught 887 salmon. These silversides averaged nearly 14 pounds apiece, and I sold them to one of the four salmon canneries then operating on Winchester Bay for approximately 4 cents per pound. Fisherman's catch records show that from 1923 to 1946 a total of 17,479,000 lbs. of silverside salmon were taken from the Umpqua, or approximately 1 1/2 million silvers. In the same period the Chinook catch totaled 4,400,460 lbs., or approximately 176,000 chinook salmon.

I occasionally fished the lower Umpqua for shad which were taken manly for their eggs, or roe. This was done from boats at night with dip nets.

Fig. 27. Sawmill at Elkton, 1883.



WALTON-CLIP-FORTLAND-DA.

ELKTON MILLING CO'S MILLS, AT ELKTON, PROPERTY OF H. BECKLEY AND JOHN L. SMITH,
DOUGLAS CO.

Elk Creek

This creek and its tributaries above Drain sustained more successful log drives than any other waterway in the Umpqua basin. As early as 1853 Newton Mulvaney had a sawmill at Drain.⁸¹ In 1880 there were four sawmills in Pass Creek and Yoncalla precincts. The two owned by C. F. Colvin and Trumble & Daur obtained their logs from Elk Creek while those of J. D. Johnson and J. G. Pass secured theirs from Pass Creek. In Elkton precinct A. H. Rone stated that he received his logs from the Upper Calapooia. The Elkton Mill Co., built by Henry Beckley and associates in 1878, obtained its logs from the mountains along Elk Creek (Fig. 27).⁸² In the same high water of 1879-80 which had proved disastrous for Saubert & Noble at Roseburg, they also lost their logs.⁸³

Further evidence emerges from the 1880's regarding the use of the streams in the watershed for log drives. A. G. Walling wrote in 1883:⁸⁴

Palmer & Bros. have a steam saw mill on Pass creek in Drain. The yearly product is 1,500,000 feet, though the mill has a capacity of 10,000 feet per day. The timber, principally fir with some ash, oak, alder and maple, is cut on Pass and Sandy creeks and rafted down to the mill.

Palmer died during the log drive of December that same year:⁸⁵

SAD FATE OF WILL E. PALMER Death's Terrible Work of Destruction

The heavy rains for a few days prior to Christmas had raised the mountain streams to such an extent that our saw mill men desired to improve the time, while the water was just right, to run their logs into the mill booms. The Palmer Brothers of Drain Station, have a fine lot of logs on Sandy creek, a branch of Pass creek, started on Christmas morning, just before daylight, with a number of men for the place where their logs were. After a few hours of hard labor, they succeeded in starting every one down stream. Everything seemed to be working for their advantage, and all hands felt highly elated, and especially the Palmer boys, who have been laboring with great zeal to make their mill a paying institution, but heretofore it has been up hill business with them, as they were unsuccessful in getting all their logs to the mill last season. Now that they had such a fine lot of logs on the way down to the mill, where they would boom them in a few more hours, they began to see a brighter future dawn, and visions of paid up creditors and home comforts arose before them. But, alas! in the midst

of safety and happiness, we poor mortals are surrounded by danger and sorrow. For, a little after 9 o'clock, while Will E., the older of the two brothers, was standing on the bank of the creek, near a clump of maple trees, cheerily assisting the boys who were on the logs, one of a clump of maples, a dead and decayed one, which had become thoroughly soaked by the rain, suddenly broke off without the least sound, or warning to Will, and struck him on the head, crushing the back part of the skull and otherwise fracturing it, causing his instant death. Some one on the logs saw the maple fall, and yelled for him to run, but owing to the rush of the water and suddenness of the occurrence, the dire calamity fell upon Will, without the least chance of saving himself.

An 1880's photograph of the Mulvaney sawmill, then at Hudson, exists as does a picture of release of water from the splash dam they used on Sandy Creek (Figs. 28, 29). Robert Anlauf's camp was photographed in operation during 1888 and pictures the creek above his camp choked with logs (Fig. 30).

In 1883 Bryant & Sweeney had a sawmill in Scott Valley on upper Elk Creek.⁸⁶ There may have been attempts to run logs to this mill as these enigmatic lines from April 1888 suggest:⁸⁷ "The day tripeth, the creek roareth, the logs jameth but the flood dam above the sawmill only makes noise." Charles Applegate, descendant of the famous Oregon pioneer who settled at Yoncalla, recalled a mill in Scotts Valley built up Adams Creek (RM 36.2) by a man named Spangenberg who:⁸⁸

first had a water-powered saw mill on Blow Creek [now Cox Creek, RM 33.9] and he moved this mill to Adams Creek by ox teams..... The mill was first supplied with logs cut near the mill site and... when the available timber near the mill was cut, the logging crews built a dam further up the creek and logged into the new pond created by the new dam, the logs being flumed from the new pond down to the original pond at the mill. When the timber within reach of the new pond was all cut, the process was repeated, a third dam being built still higher up Adams Creek and the flume extended to reach it.

Legal records for the 1890's give clearer evidence concerning log driving on Elk Creek and its tributaries. Dorrace Lumber Co. of Safely (RM 4-5 Pass Creek, also called Hudson) distributed its property to its creditors in August 1890, and then had "logs along Pass Creek between the saw mill plant and the mouth of Big Sandy [and] along Big Sandy from the mouth into Section 16 and ...



Fig. 28. Mulvaney Splash dam
on Pass or Sandy Creek, 1880's
Douglas County Museum.

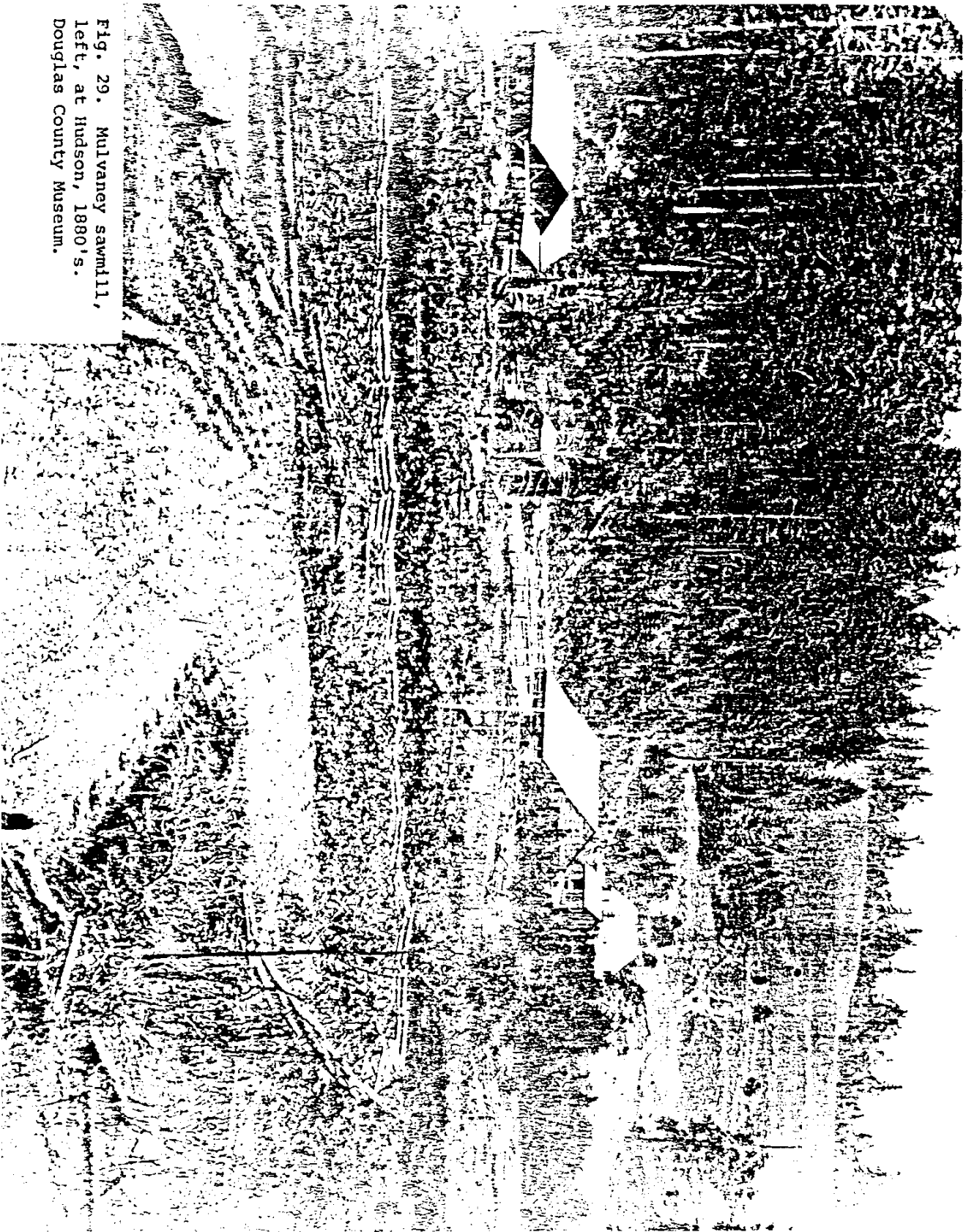
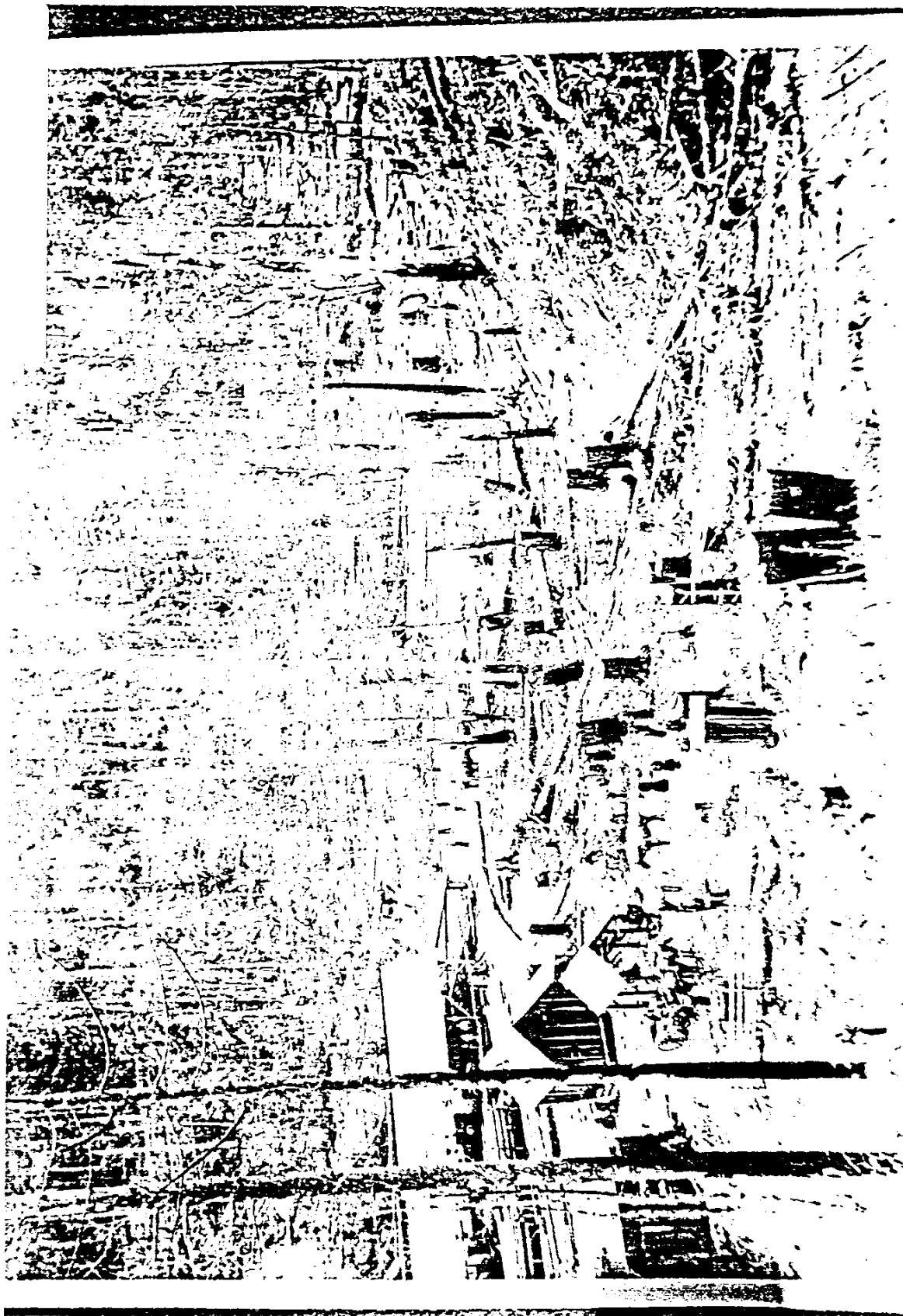


Fig. 29. Mulvaney sawmill,
left, at Hudson, 1880's.
Douglas County Museum.

Fig. 30. Robert Anlauf camp
on Pass Creek circa 1888.
Douglas County Museum.



on Little Sandy between the mouth and Section 15 within 3 miles of the said mill."⁸⁹ Harry Heaton, who drove the logs between November 1889 and August 1890 and is immortalized in the huge photomural in the main corridor of the Douglas County Courthouse, also described the operation in the mechanics lien he filed against Dorrace on August 2, 1890 (Figs. 31, 32):

There are now a large number of said saw logs upon which I have bestowed work and labor ... at the boom of said corporation at the Mill at Hudson, on the waters of Pass Creek and banks thereof and on the waters of Little and Big Sandy tributaries thereof and above their banks amounting to at least one and one-half million feet. That said saw logs comprise all the saw logs at said boom, -on the water of Pass Creek, -Little and Big Sandy, -and the banks thereof. Some are marked "D", some "R", some "V" and some "C" and all are stamped with a +.

The next drives about which we have information is to an entangled series of transactions relative to logs floated to the E. C. Palmer sawmill during 1891-93. The Palmer mill at this time was on Elk Creek below Boswell Springs about 1 1/2 - 2 miles southeast of Drain adjacent to the Southern Pacific railroad. Olson and later Ben Watkins logged for the mill, the former with oxen, the latter with six horses. Henry Churchill began logging for them in the 1880's. In September 1891 Palmer had some logs on the creek variously branded with a J, 2 hacks, or a punch. He hired (Wm.) Cathcart and (Henry) Churchill to drive the logs to his mill at \$3 per thousand feet for 12-32 foot logs and \$4 for logs over 32 feet in length.⁹⁰

Beginning in October 1891, Cathcart & Churchill delivered 1,643,000 feet of fir and cedar saw logs down the creek from the lands of Boggs, Cellers, Wise, Boswell, Ch. Wolfers and John Drain (Fig. 33a). The highest point from which logs were brought down Elk Creek was the lands of Roscheon, 7 river miles above the mill (near RM 34). Several brands marked the logs in the drive: C (Cathcart & Churchill), J (John Barker), I, V, T, + and X. Thomas Bledsoe, Monroe Miller and J. F. Simpson were among those who worked on the drive;⁹¹ the latter placed

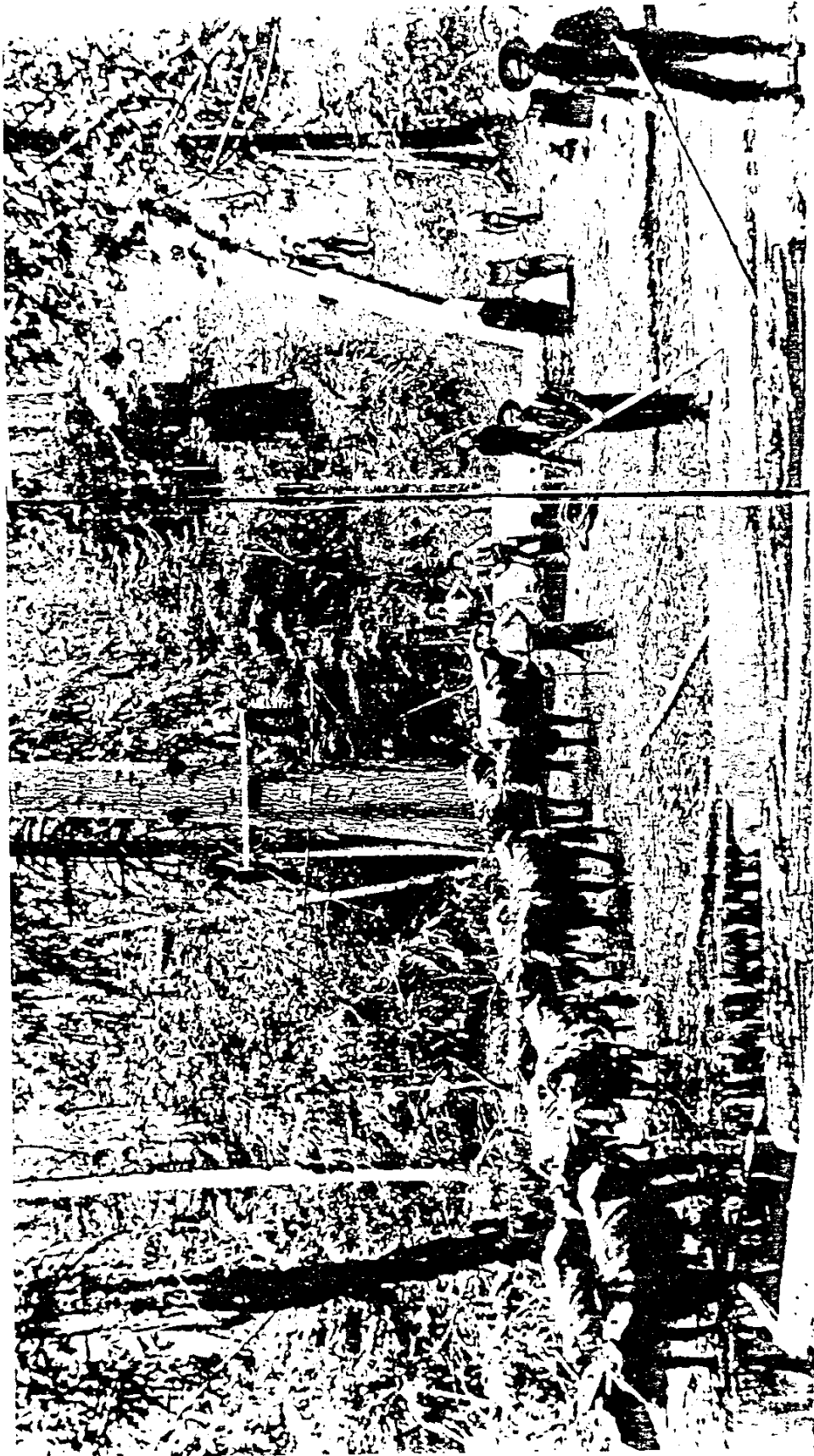


Fig. 31. Harry Heaton bull
team logging on Big Sandy
Creek, 1890's.
Douglas County Museum.

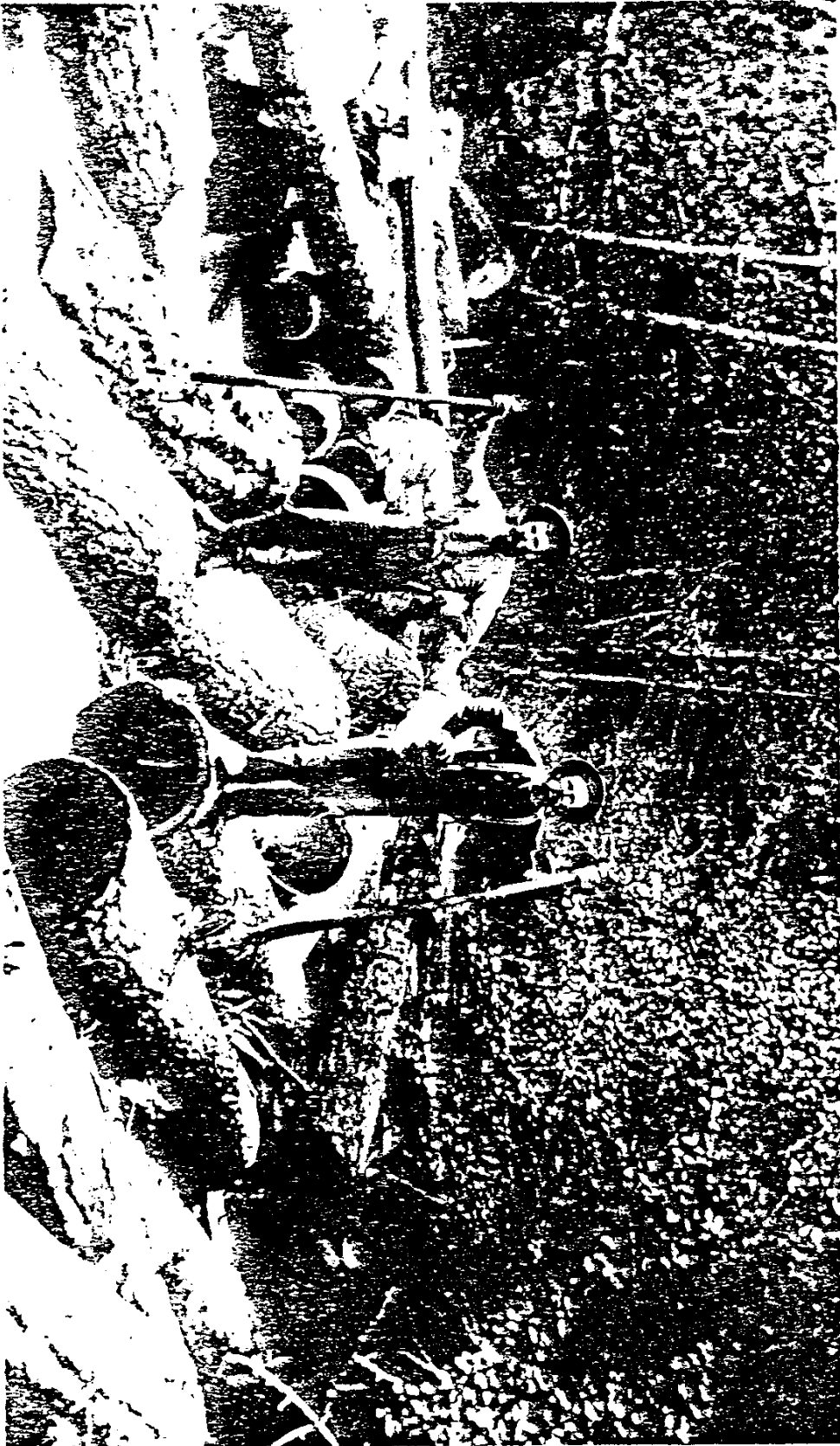


Fig. 32. Harry Heaton, right,
log drive on Sandy Creek,
1890's.
Douglas County Museum.



Fig. 33a. Elk Creek at River
Mile 29.
May 15, 1981

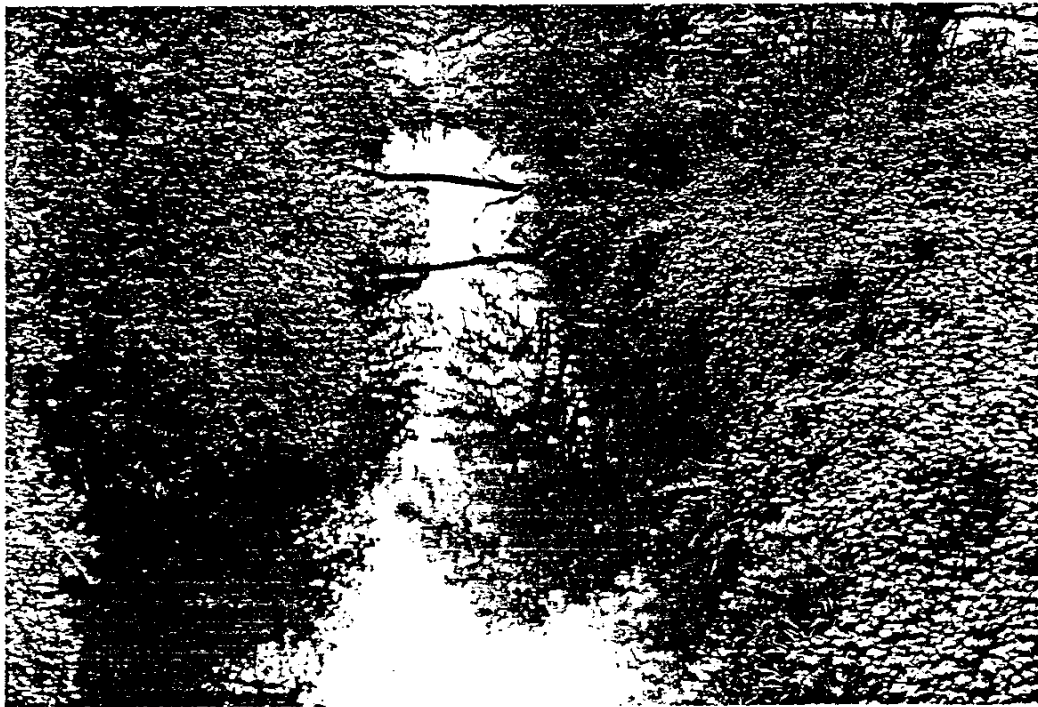


Fig. 33b. Pass Creek at
Leona, RM 3.
May 6, 1981

a lien on the logs branded C for the work he put in between January and April 1892 at \$1.25 per day for cutting and sawing the logs and \$2 per day for driving them.⁹²

In September, Cathcart & Churchill placed a lien against Palmer for the logs they had driven.⁹³ The claims led to a court case in which Palmer argued that Cathcart & Churchill had cut the brands from the logs he already had in the stream and rebranded them with their marks; put in a number of rotten logs; and from April to July, when the river was too low to get the logs to the mill, put in many logs including the longer, more expensive kind to inflate their bill. The case was further complicated because other loggers put logs in the creek after Cathcart & Churchill (in all there were 18 dumps along the creek in 1892) and in 1893 Palmer lost 400,000 feet of the combined group of logs from his boom flooded out.⁹⁴

The high water of December 1893 that took down Palmer's logs also swept over a thousand logs of Perkins & Holyfield down Elk Creek for half a mile where they fortunately lodged. It also washed away the fourteen year old mill and boom of Henry Beckley at Elkton.⁹⁵ The latter facilities were rebuilt but suffered the same fate four years later.⁹⁶

In 1895, however, the mill at Hudson on Pass Creek got one thousand logs down during spring high waters. Throughout the years 1896-99, Levi Berkley of Drain logged for Palmer Lumber Company.⁹⁷ A photograph exists of Otto Anlauf logging on upper Pass Creek in 1899 (Fig. 34).

During March 1898, Dunbar & Co. completed a 20,000 foot per day sawmill in Ritchey Canyon, 3 miles northwest of Drain (RM 21). Jacob Ritchey and Lon Lewis were to supply the logs that season.⁹⁸ Three years later O. W. and Isaac Ohlsen contracted to supply logs to the mill. In July one of their loggers placed a lien on 350,000 feet of logs branded O they had cut and placed in Elk Creek.⁹⁹

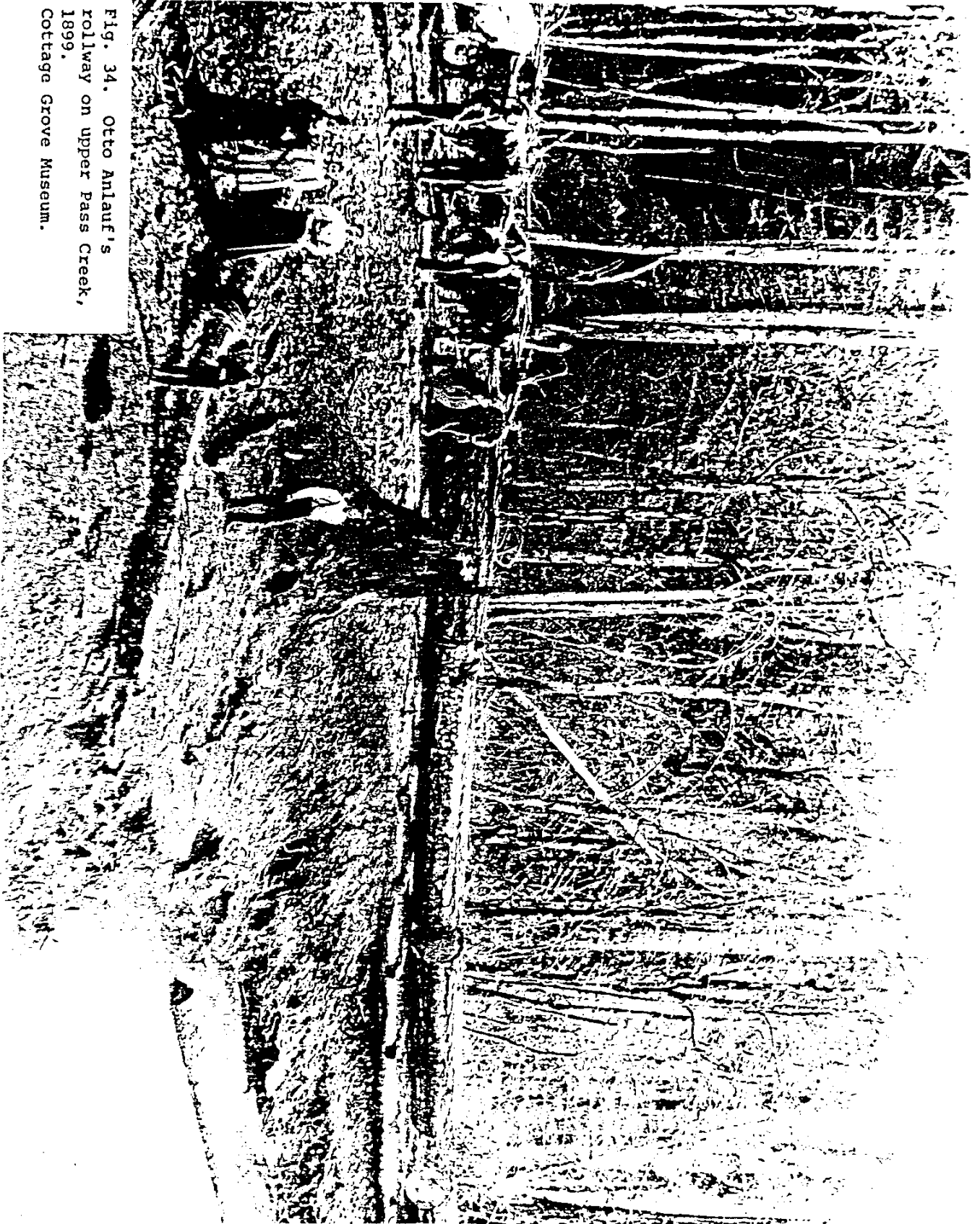


Fig. 34. Otto Anlauf's
rollway on upper Pass Creek,
1899.
Cottage Grove Museum.

These references could refer to logs in a boom on Elk Creek, however, rather than use of the stream for drives in that reach.

December 1898 found A. E. Cooper blasting rock out of lower Elk Creek in order to raft lumber from his Brush Creek sawmill (RM 12.5) to Elkton.¹⁰⁰ In the next decade William H. and H. H. Stark founded Stark Lumber Co. at Elkton. Henry H. Churchill delivered 208,273 feet of logs into Elk Creek for their mill in July 1907 and (A. J.) Levins & (Elmer) Chambers delivered 167,000 feet of sawlogs branded L and C into Elk Creek for them during the succeeding six months.¹⁰¹ Stark went bankrupt and the mill was reorganized as the Elk Creek Lumber Co. Logs for it were cut along the slopes and bottom lands of Elk Creek and moved to the creek by teams and log jacks. They were then floated down Elk Creek to the side booms in the mill's pond (Figs. 35, 36b). It was during this period that W. H. Jones of Elkton wrote to the Gardiner Mill Company requesting them to pay for any of the sawlogs branded + which he had lost and which he hoped the Gardiner mill had caught.¹⁰²

John Binder purchased the mill in 1915, and the following year constructed a splash dam above the present highway tunnel (RM 7) which backed the creek up about two miles (Figs. 36a, 37). The splash gates did not supply sufficient flow, however, and the attempt was abandoned. The mill operated under new owners until 1920 or 1921.¹⁰³

There was further use of the creek's headwaters above Drain during the first decade of this century. The Drain Lumber Co. had 800,000 feet of logs in the creek in June 1904.¹⁰⁴ In March 1905, Kelleher on Yoncalla Creek expected enough water in the creek both to run the mill and for logging purposes. The reason for the latter concern was that Skelley Lumber Co.'s:¹⁰⁵

logs were run down a chute from "The Flats" to Billy Creek, then flooded or splash-dammed to the sawmill. The lumber cut at the mill was flumed down to Elk Creek in South Drain, the flume being about 5 1/2 miles long..... There was a crew of 40 or 50 men



Fig. 35. Repairing sawmill
dam at Elkton.
Douglas County Museum.



Fig. 36a. Elk Creek below highway tunnel, RM 6.5. May 6, 1981

Fig. 36b. Elk Creek above mouth at Elkton, May 6, 1981



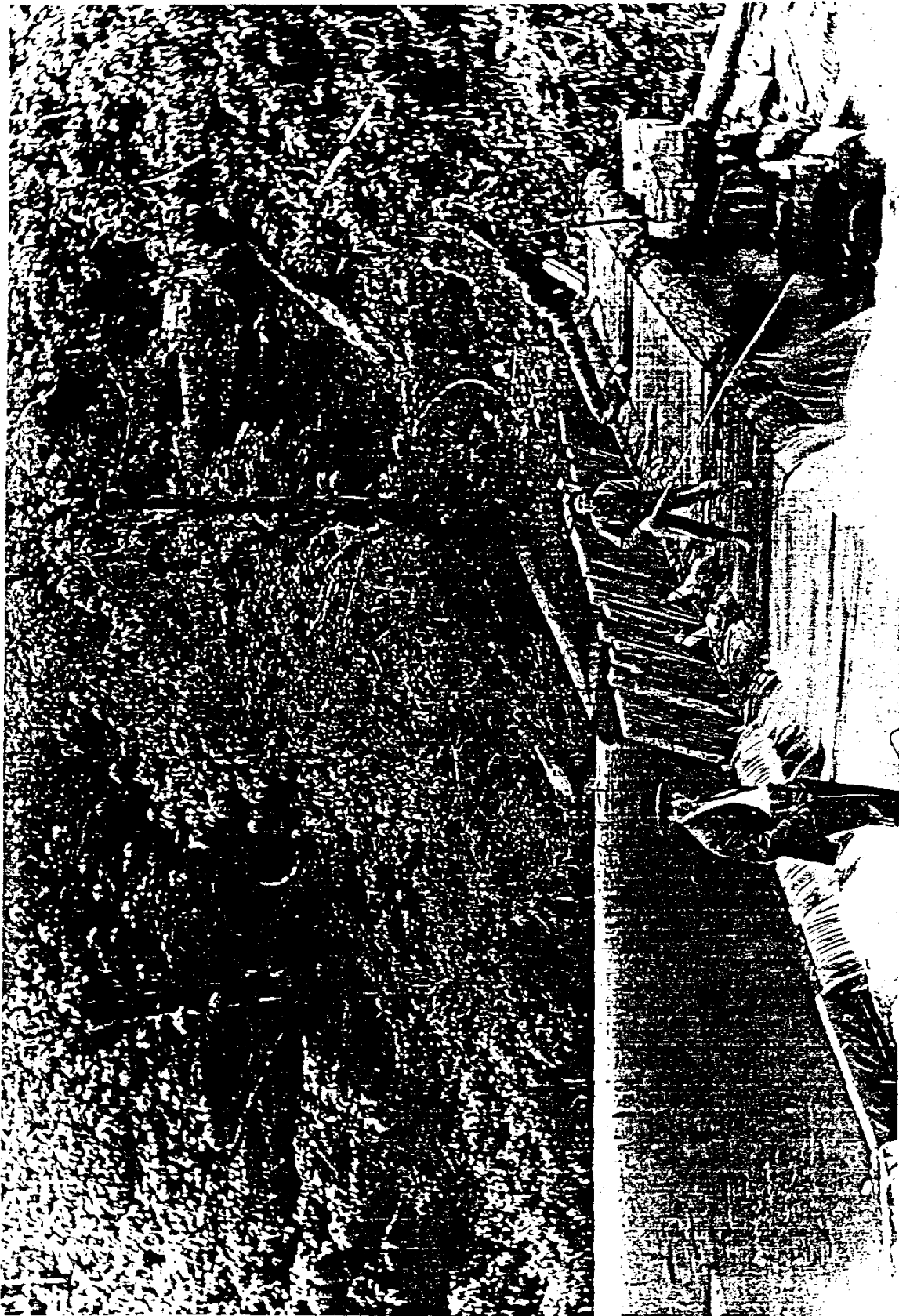


Fig. 37. Binder's splash
dam on Elk Creek.
Douglas County Museum.



Fig. 38. Log chute to
rollway on Pass Creek for
Perkins and Bledsoe's Leona
Mill Company.
Douglas County Museum.

employed in the mill and logging there..... The mill employed two flume walkers, whose duty was to patrol the flume between the mill and Drain. A man was killed at Skelly by falling out of the mill into the flume.

High water in February 1906 allowed Skelley Lumber to get a fine lot of logs.¹⁰⁶

The Drain Nonpareil editorialized in March 1905, "Rains the past week caused the loggers to smile." The following December there were more smiles at Leona on Pass Creek, "Owing to the heavy rains last week they succeeded in getting a good drive of logs and the Mill Co. anticipate no further trouble." (Fig. 38).¹⁰⁷ The same year Palmer Lumber Co. was again receiving logs down Elk Creek marked X and C from Joe Cellers' land (RM 28).¹⁰⁸ The Timberman explained in July 1907 that Palmer's logs were "Driven down Elk Creek about four miles, with the aid of a splash dam."¹⁰⁹ In November 1909, however, they lost 200,000 feet branded X and ☉ during high waters. The Gardiner Mill Company responded to their inquiry that they believed most had been swept out to sea.¹¹⁰

Earl "Jeff" Ensley, born 1892 in Drain, recalled the last years of driving in the watershed:¹¹¹

The bigger outfits usually had machinery, donkey engines, but there were still a lot of animals used, oxen and horses. They ran the logs down the rivers instead of having railroads and trucks. In fact, there were no roads, no roads in the right place. Most of the mills were on water that they could run logs to. Then they were dammed up and they would run the logs in to the dam and into the mill. [Ensley sketched a splash dam] On top this dam was boards usually 2x8 or something like that... When they got it full - now this dam wasn't the main dam, it was the one they put in the river up there to get a head of water to float the logs - when it got filled with logs up here, they went down here and this was fixed so they could just flip up when you tripped them down at the bottom here. There was a timber or board that these boards were behind and when you tripped them, they would go out this way and the logs would go down.

In some places they had two or three dams to get them clear out. Well, they would run them from this one to that one, that one to that one and finally get them home.

Q. Which rivers around here had this kind of dam on it for logs:

Well, you wouldn't call them rivers, just creeks. The first one I can think of right quick, do you know where Sand Creek is up here? There were two or three, three I think, flood dams on it. From there on up, well they ran logs down Elk Creek out here for - oh, it's been years ago. I was just a kid when they did that.....

Q. Who were some of the first loggers in this area?

Well, let's see, Perkins and Bledsoe used to have a mill, you know where the river is up here [Leona Mill Co.]. There was a mill there and I can't think who started one out on Elk Creek... out towards the waterfall and right in there there was a sawmill and a dam. I don't know who started it but a guy named Johnson had it for awhile. They run their logs down Albert Creek. There used to be a guy by the name of Cooper had a mill down just this side of the tunnel, you know where the bridge goes across the creek from the highway.....Cooper had a mill on Brush Creek down there.

Q. A lot of these early sawmills had transportation problems getting logs to a mill?

Yes. They were mostly on creeks so they could float them down. They usually put the mill in where they could float them down the creeks to the mill because there were no roads and hauling logs with an ox team where you couldn't put a wagon, that was out.

Myrtle Creek

In the 1880 Census Horace Lindsay and Zacharie Cardwell each had a sawmill in Myrtle Creek Precinct and stated they received their logs on Myrtle Creek, but which branch of the dual stream is not specified.¹¹² Felix Robinson built a sawmill on North Myrtle nine miles upstream in 1872 which was still operating in 1883.¹¹³ There is only one specific notice of North Myrtle (Fig. 39b) having been used to float wood. This was done by Rice Bros. in 1901 on contract for the Oil Company, but high water carried the cordwood right past their boom.¹¹⁴ In May of the same year there had been better luck on the South creek:¹¹⁵

W. A. Newton just finished floating 200 cords of railroad wood down South Myrtle, and will deliver it at the railroad depot. Edwin Weaver is following him with 150 cords of drier wood, which he will haul from here.

Of the many ventures to force the reluctant waterways of Douglas County to carry logs to sawmills, perhaps no effort was more remarkable than that of William P. Johnson on South Myrtle Creek. During 1902 he acquired easements from property owners along the creek to run logs upon it from at least River Mile 16.3 to the creek's mouth below the town of Myrtle Creek; the description of these rights are many pages in length. At the same time Johnson built a flume to carry the product of the sawmill he built at River Mile 7 down to the town of Myrtle Creek (Fig. 40). All these investments, including purchase of timber lands, represented a capital outlay of \$30,000.¹¹⁶ During his first drive on Myrtle Creek above his mill in March 1903, John Dick, logger, drowned while breaking a log jam.¹¹⁷ On July 22 of that year C. R. Potts refused to open his mill dam at River Mile 14 which formed the mill pond for Potts' own sawmill at that point on the creek (which Potts said was not navigable for sawlogs) in order to flush some of Johnson's logs to his mill. This led to an altercation including Johnson's dynamiting of Potts' dam and Potts' claim that the easement for use of

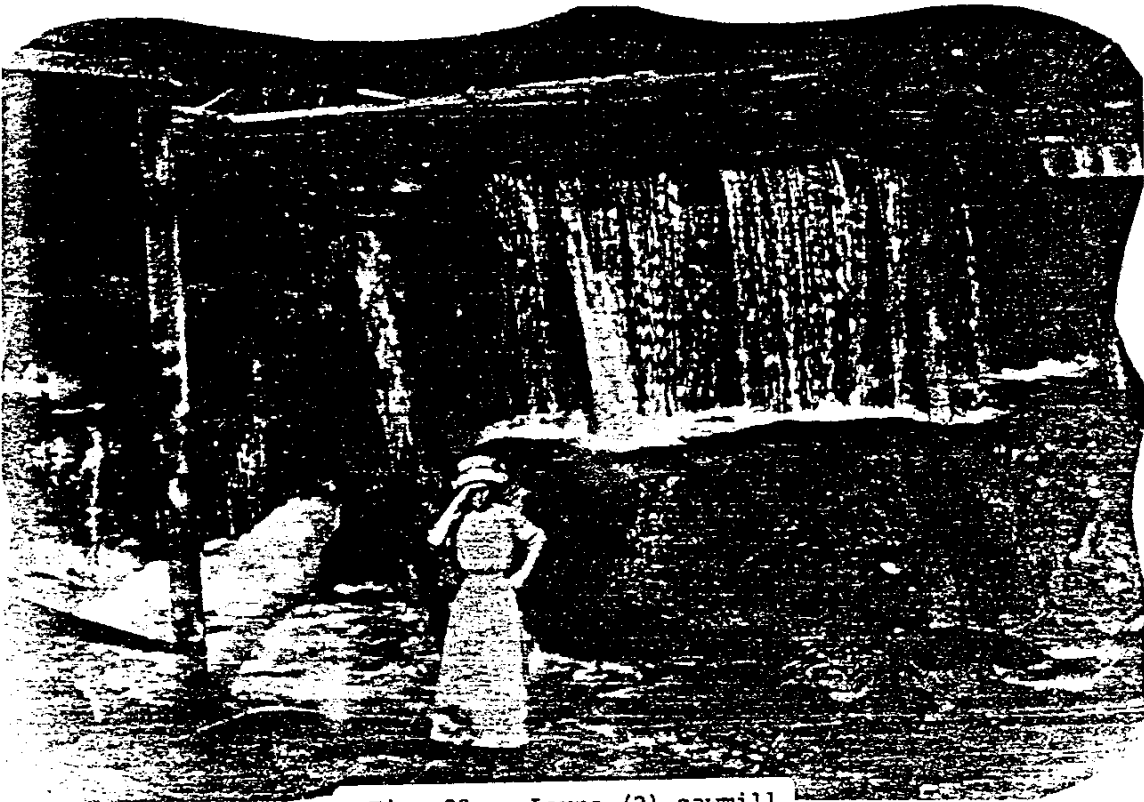


Fig. 39a. Layne (?) sawmill
dam on Calapooia Creek.
Douglas County Museum.

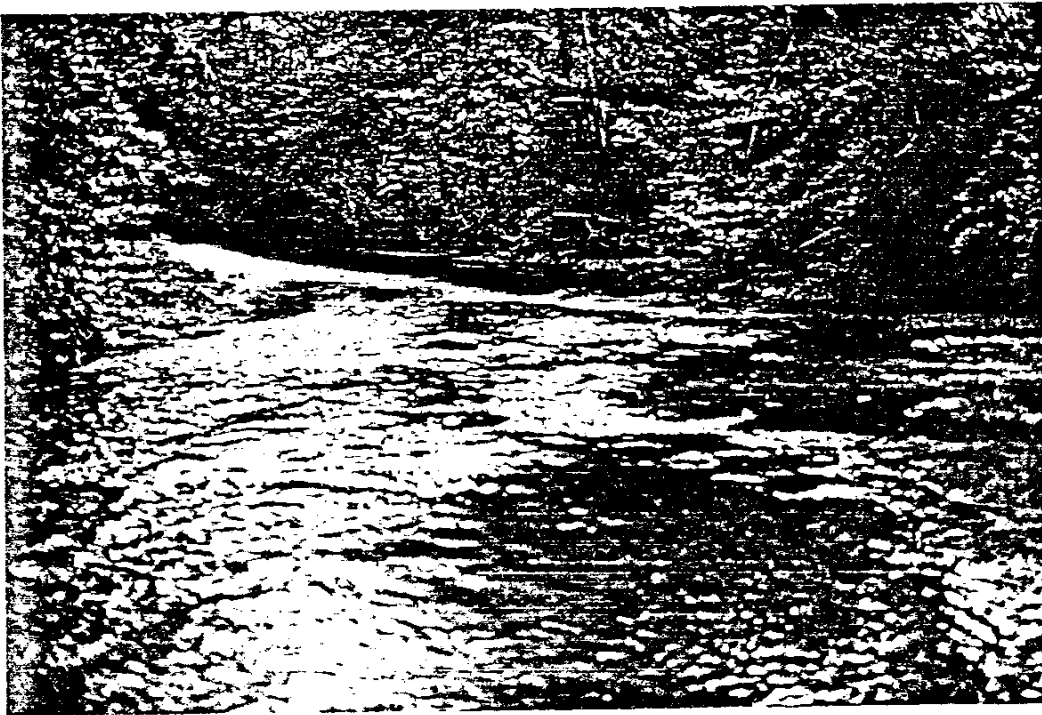


Fig. 39b. North Myrtle Creek,
RM 2.
May 7, 1981

his reach of South Myrtle Creek had been fraudulently obtained. Johnson seems to have overcome this difficulty and in November 1903 transformed his venture into the William P. Johnson Lumber Company, a corporation.¹¹⁸ In January 1906 he sold out saying he would "never again locate on the line of the Southern Pacific company." The purchaser, Myrtle Creek Lumber Company, still operated the flume to Myrtle Creek in 1911.¹¹⁹ For all Johnson's efforts to maintain the right to float Myrtle Creek, he seems only to have driven the creek above River Mile 7 where his mill was located. Use of the creek during the summer required the assistance of an artificial splash from the Potts dam.

Other Streams

Hubbard Creek, a tributary of the main Umpqua was the site of William Benjamin Clarke's sawmill. In 1868 he ran it with James H. Dixon as a partner for one year, in the 1880's and 90's (Jonathan L.?) Baker was Clarke's partner. The community around the sawmill was called Millwood.¹²⁰

The dam was located on Hubbard Creek some distance above the mill, and the creek made a large bend between the damsite and the mill; a race was dug to bring the water down to the mill and it cut across this bend. In order to do so, it was necessary to dig a tunnel through an intervening knoll, and the water of the mill race flowed through this tunnel.

Various parties logged for the mill during the 1890's including Hibard, Edgington, Bladen and Co. and Sutton Bros.¹²¹

In the winter of 1896 B. B. Sutton put 97,000 feet of logs in the creek for them two miles above the mill. He placed a lien on the logs, because there was not enough water to float them down. The following winter Sutton again logged for Clarke & Baker, this time putting in 101,000 feet of fir logs from H. H. Churchill's land which was also about two miles above the mill. Both lots of logs did not come down until March 1899, but the water that carried them was so high - as was so typical in the Umpqua basin - that the boom broke and they all went into the Umpqua River.¹²²



Fig. 40a. South Myrtle
Creek near River Mile 16.
July 8, 1981

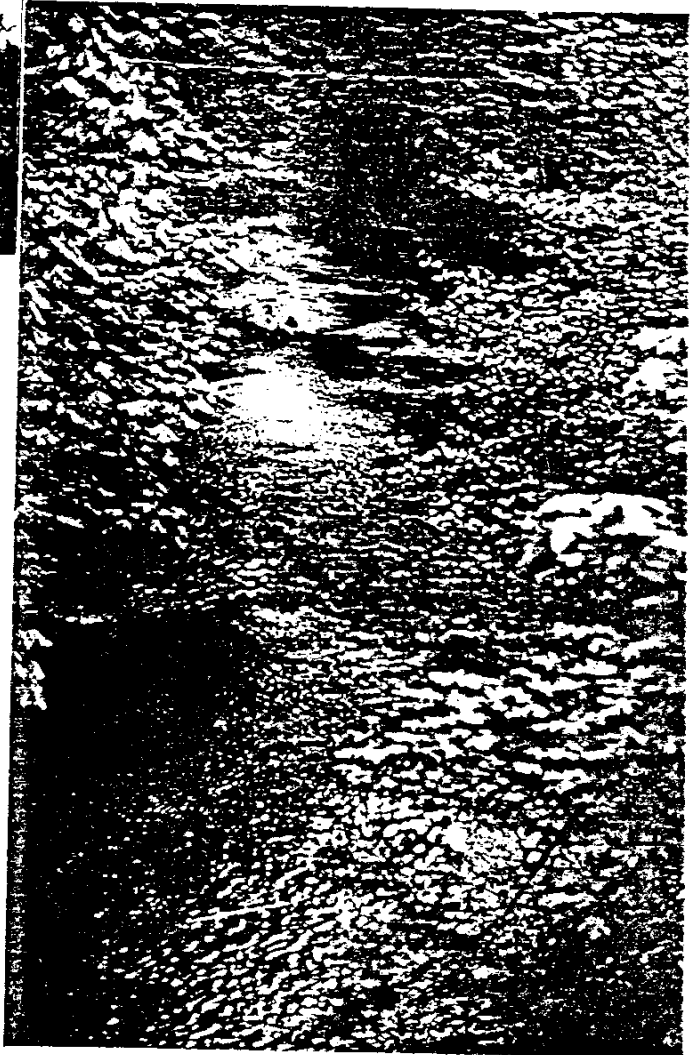


Fig. 40b. South Myrtle
Creek near River Mile 7.
May 7, 1981

As for a small nearby tributary of the Umpqua, Waggoner Creek:¹²³

George D. Madison had a mill and mill pond on Wagner Creek... At that time it was the only mill in this area that could saw boat gunnels long enough for Ferry Boats. And there were lots and lots of Ferry boats along the Umpqua in those days. There was a permanent dam on the creek which made the mill pond. There were two splash dams on up Wagner Creek, the first of which was built before the turn of the century [near RM 1], and the upper dam was built by my uncle, Frank Madison, about 1919-20 [at Cedar and Hole in the Ground Creeks]. The mill and the dams all rotted away, I don't know exactly, but would say in the 30's.

32 foot logs were splashed out by the dams, some of which went to the Gardiner Mill Company, evidently down the Umpqua.¹²⁴

Most of the sawmills along the 81 miles of Cow Creek, which incises a deep valley, used the flume or railroad for transport of their logs, but there were occasional efforts to drive the stream. In the early 1900's James Burch had a semi-portable mill which cut mostly railroad ties. "Burch floated the ties to Glendale in a successful driving operation, but a freshet broke the boom at Glendale, scattering the ties down Cow Creek... clear to Riddle."¹²⁵ Most of the efforts to use Cow Creek were quite late. In the fall of 1923, Joe M. Crahan drove a quarter million board feet of fir and pine logs branded W and R between Peck (RM 16.5) and Riddle near the creek's mouth. As the logs were lying along that length in December and a lien was levied on them against the Riddle Lumber Company, the drive was not likely to have been a success (Fig. 41).¹²⁶ Despite this bad experience on the lower creek, the Cow Creek Boom Company was granted a franchise in January 1926 to build splash dams and booms and remove rocks from Cow Creek between Booth and Red Mountain (RM 54.5-77). The company did not, however, take up the franchise.¹²⁷ Finally in February 1942, the United Lumber Co. wished to drive logs, poles, ties, posts, and peeler blocks of 8-16 foot lengths down the lower 3 3/4 miles of the West Fork of Cow Creek to Dothan.¹²⁸ Perhaps they succeeded.



Fig. 41a. Cow Creek, River
Mile 8.5.
July 8, 1981



Fig. 41b. Part of bedrock
reef across Cow Creek, RM 8.
July 8, 1981

On Bear Creek, a tributary of Tenmile Creek, Gurney Bros. had a sawmill in 1883 pictured by Walling (Fig. 42).¹²⁹ His illustration indicates use of an upper dam to store logs and probably supply the flume to the overshot mill-wheel. The flume could not also carry the logs, so the stream must have been used to take them to the mill pond also pictured full of logs. In 1906, 'Reston,' a community on Tenmile below Bear Creek, reported, "E. L. Bushnell and sons have succeeded in running their logs to the Boardman Bros. mill."¹³⁰

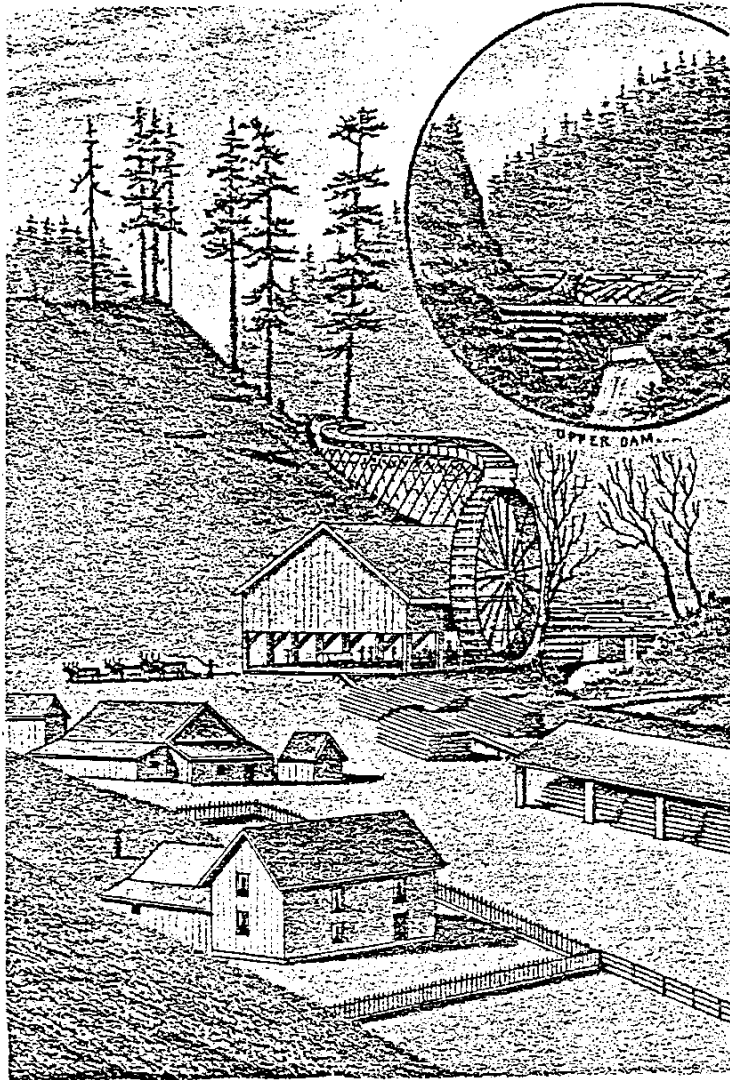
Mill and Camp Creeks

The last and most successful drives on the tributaries of the Umpqua were mounted on Mill Creek below Scottsburg. The history of logging on the creek began for the Gardiner mill in 1883-84; "a large camp of men cut the timber and float the logs down to the Umpqua, and thence to Gardiner, fifteen miles below."¹³¹

Alex Esselstrom of Scottsburg logged on Camp Creek in 1906 about seven miles southeast of Scottsburg. In June 1906 he was erecting dams on Camp and Comerine Creeks to assist his operation.¹³² According to the Gardiner Mill Company correspondence, Henderson was rafting logs on Mill Creek during the first week of May 1907, and in June 1908 the log boom prevented scows carrying hay from going up Mill Creek.¹³³ This was probably in the tidal section which extends over a mile above the creek's mouth. Alex Esselstrom wrote, in his distinctive spelling during 1908:¹³⁴

logs ar going in just fin now and I have got both of the dams
com peat now the half moon gat is in and appern is in to in
the big dam just got don to day.

There are more details about Gardiner Mill Company's operations on Mill and Camp Creeks in 1910 and 1911. During the former year the company had trouble with the Fish Warden regarding installation of fish ladders in their splash dams. The company's position was that the dams were not closed during the periods when fish were migrating and that therefore no special aids were needed for the fish.¹³⁵



HALING-LITH-PORTLAND-OR.

MILL PROPERTY OF GURNEY BROS.
TEN MILE, DOUGLAS CO.

1883

Fig. 42.

Esselstrom wrote the following logging reports:¹³⁶

I am jeting a long fine and I am puting in quit lot of logs now and the Donkeys ar all rite.

9 Aug 1911

I got the Donkeys going a gan and halling logs. I got a pretty good ron of logs. got quit menney in the boom.

17 Jan 1912

wall I got my shut[e] all don. and hawling logs now. and I am going to jet qut. lots out. et is a good chaue [show?].

25 Feb 1912

The company reported in September 1911 that at the time of the 1910 county assessment they had 7805 logs in the Mill Creek boom which equaled 4,039,932 board feet with a value of \$14,314.76.¹³⁷

The company's correspondence with Esselstrom regarding the Camp and Mill Creek operations takes up again in the years 1914-16. The company informed him in August 1914 that when he set up a new camp on Camp Creek they would give him a new log brand to use. Alex reported at the end of October:¹³⁸

wall ever thing is woorking pretty good, onley it is a long Hall. wee ar not jeting very meney logs but it is big timer. I am using from 1500 to 3000 ft. of line to jet them.... I havent got to hal onley 8 Days in the big gulch, yat. wee have mad an avrag of 50 a Day so far. and a bout the big Dam. it is in good shape.

I woorked it a bout a week a go and sloosed a baut 300 or 400 logs in the bomm.

wall I will have lots of logs in the bom by Spring if wee jet enney king of a rase

On January 12, 1915 he seems to have used an amanuensis:¹³⁹

I was down to that jam about a week ago with four men and blasted the rocks away from the front and rolled the front logs when the water went down I found a little island was holding them.

There is about 7000 logs in the jam all we need now is a freshet there has been no raise in Camp Creek to speak of this winter. I think we will get them in the boom before spring..... I dont believe in giving things up.

The jam is in Mill Creek about five miles above tide water I started to haul logs just across the creek from the bunk house

but the hill was so slick they got to running and started to break so I had to take them around and down a dry gulch.

There is about 1400 logs to take out of that place before I move above the little dam.

At the present I am hauling about 3000 feet about two thousand with the roader and a thousand or twelve hundred feet with the yarder..... After we get through on this show we will have a good chance for the rest of the season so I am figuring on a good many thousand logs this season.

The following November he came down from the camp and noted loose logs in Mill Creek and recommended that the boom be closed in order to catch them when the next storm occurred. In June 1916 from Camp 9 he wrote that he had hauled 1756 logs equal to 1,372,369 feet.¹⁴⁰ At the end of the year the Gardiner Mill Company burned to the ground and they transferred their logging operations to Jewett Mill, but as late as January 1919 many of their logs were in Mill Creek above the head of tide awaiting a freshet to take them out.¹⁴¹ Although they had withdrawn from active operations, as in connection with their Smith River operations, Gardiner Mill Company applied for and obtained a franchise from the Public Service Commission in 1917 to use dams and booms and drive Camp and Mill Creek. When they decommissioned their Smith River Boom franchise in 1932 they maintained their right on Mill and Camp creeks.¹⁴²

In April of that same year, 1932, Douglas Fir Logging & Booming Company, Nonda Anderson, President, asked for a franchise to improve Mill Creek on the basis of nonuser by Gardiner Mill Company. The improvements they proposed were the blasting and removing of huge boulders below the outlet of Loon Lake (Fig. 43a) and installation of a splash dam there "to afford an unobstructed passage for the floating of logs, lumber and other timber products in the waters of said Loon Lake down said Mill Creek." They asserted that upper Mill Creek was navigable for sawlogs in extreme winter high water and Mill Creek below Camp Creek in ordinary winter high water (Fig. 43b). They planned to market a billion board feet of fir, cedar and hemlock from Loon Lake and Mill Creek.¹⁴³

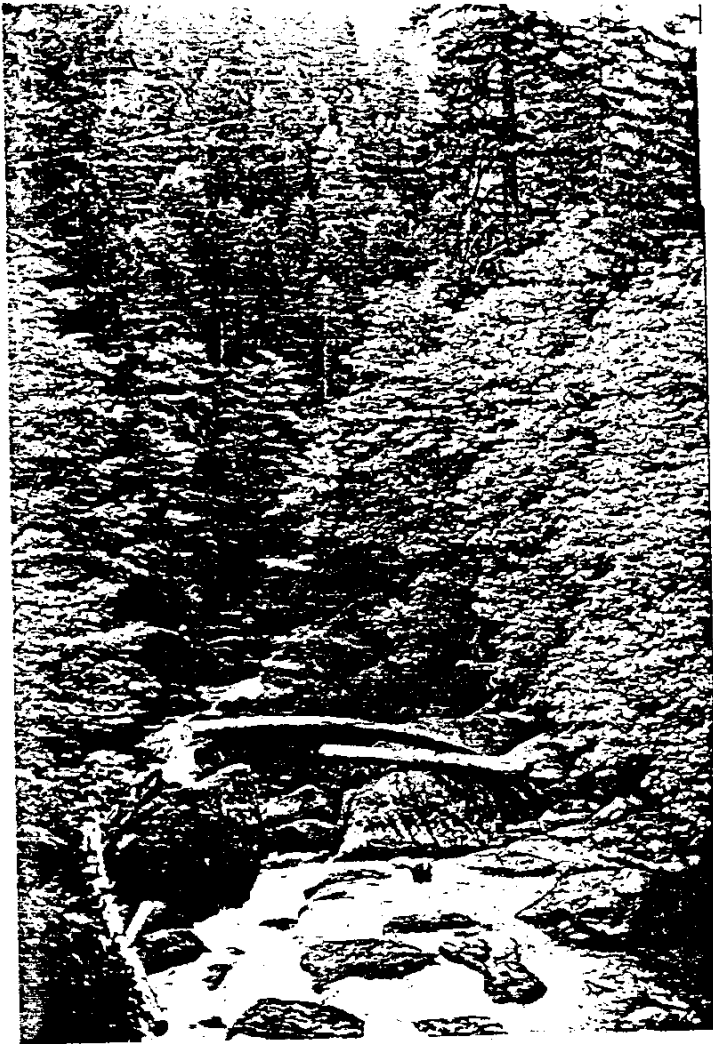


Fig. 43a. Mill Creek at outlet of Loon Lake blasted by Gardiner Mill Company. May 9, 1981

Fig. 43b. Mill Creek below confluence of Camp Creek. May 9, 1981



Fay Madison of Winchester recalled in June 1981 the latter days of splash dam logging on Camp and Mill Creeks (Figs. 44-46):¹⁴⁴

I started working for Gardiner Lumber Co. in 1937... for Howard Hinsdale at \$6.00 per day! That was BIG money in those days.

The splash dams I know about, there were 4 on Camp creek and one in Mill creek just below the mouth of Camp Creek. I worked on the Mill creek and lower two Camp Creek Dams as well as splashing the logs.

The dams we built on Camp Creek were at bout 15 and 17 miles up the Creek, and were built about a year before the one at Mill Creek, which was built about the end of the 30's or early 40's. The mill Creek dam splashed logs all the way to the Umpqua. These three dams were about 12-14 foot high.

The two older splash dams above ours on Camp Creek, a smaller one furthest up (don't know how far or how high it was), and the larger of the two which was approximately 24 ft. high, and located about 5-6 miles above our upper dam was able to splash logs all the way to the Umpqua. These two upper dams were built before the turn of the century, but were gone by the time we were working on the Creek. I got most of this information from Hal Esselstrom who worked with me on the Camp Creek Dams, as these upper dams were built by his father's brother Alex Esselstrom for Gardiner Lumber Co. There was an old building near the site of the bigger dam, which we saw when we opened up the old road from Scottsburg up over Camp Creek and into Loon Lake, so the Cruisers could get in to work this area.....

I would say that the Mill Creek dam was probably the last one built. These dams were in use from approximately 1939 thru 1942. They were all impassable to fish. (No ladders) At high water, however, the fish could make it up over the Mill Creek dam, but then would gather by the hundreds in the pool below our first dam up Camp Creek. Some of the fellas used to go up after work and throw a stick of Dynamite into the pool and take home a sack full of fish for dinner!

These dams we used were closed during the winter time, as that was the time we splashed logs, but were left open during the summer. As to the frequency, depending on the amount of water available and the number of logs there to be splashed, I would say we splashed every week or two.

These dams were not physically removed. They just rotted away and washed out with time. When I moved back to the area in 1972, I went up looking for the old dams. The one on Mill Creek was all gone, all I could see was the holes I had drilled into the bedrock. However at that time the abutment of the lower Camp Creek dam was still there.



Fig. 44a. Camp Creek, River
Mile 1, site of one of the
splash dams on that creek.
May 9, 1981



Fig. 44b. Ancient cutting
on lower Mill Creek.
May 9, 1981

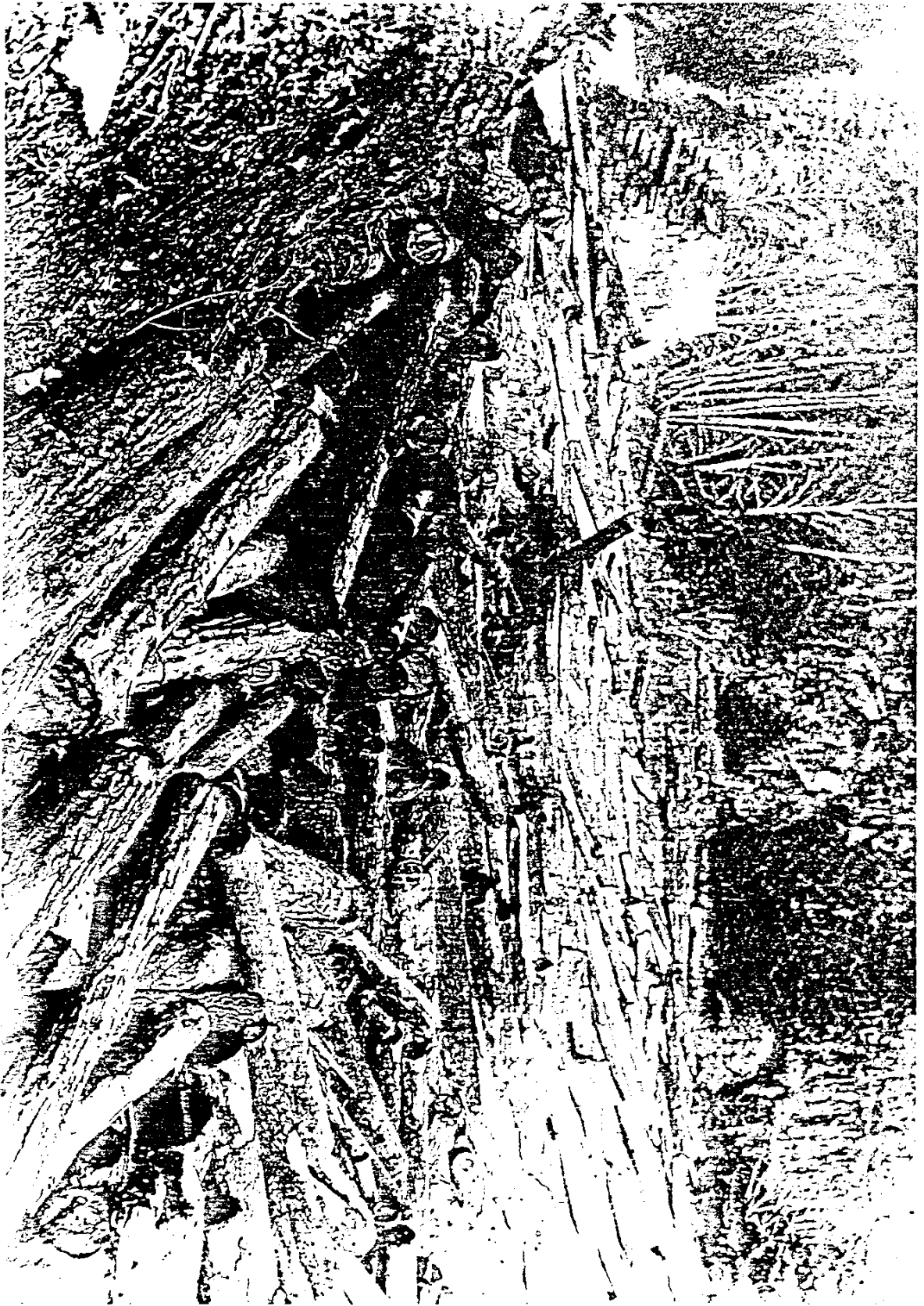


Fig. 45. Log jam at mouth
of Loon Lake.
Douglas County Museum.



Fig. 46. Camp Creek splash
dam.
Douglas County Museum.

Before we could splash any logs, they would send out the cutting crew to cut all the windfalls on both sides of the creeks that might hold up the logs when they were splashed. All these newly cut logs had to be branded before the splash, so Lloyd Meyer and I, he on one side of the creek and I on the other, with only one branding hammer between us, so we had to keep throwing it back and forth across the creek, and make it all the way up to where they were logging at the camp, and before they quit for the day so we could get a ride home. The next day Howard Hinsdale brought us up a boat and we put it in at the mouth of Camp creek and branded logs down Mill Creek to the mouth of Mill creek. Before noon when we were coming down Mill creek we went over a little 3-4 foot falls, and the water came over and filled the back of the boat and sunk it to the bottom!.....

Breaking up jams, where the logs hung up on gravel bars or rocky points, was done with dynamite. While breaking one of these jams, when it broke, we were floating down the river on the first of these jams, when it broke, we were floating down the river on the first logs. We made our way to the closest log to the bank Hal and I, but Lloyd Myers was in between the logs, and by the time we could pull him up onto a log, he had worn all the hide off the inside of his elbow and knee fighting for his life. Then we jumped into the water and waded ashore.

After the first year of splashing, when we knew where the logs had been hanging up on gravel bars, rocky points, and where they had been washed out of the creek, I went down Camp Creek and clear down Mill Creek, with a Cat with a sled carrying Gas, Diesel, air compressor and on the back end Dynamite. I put the beached logs into the creek, shot out the big rocks and cleaned the creek all the way so there would be no more hangups.

Closing these dams in the cold of winter a couple of men working in about 2 foot of COLD water had to set the splash dam back in position.....

I think the main reason they stopped splashing logs, if they didn't get a good head of water, the logs would outrun the water and take the scale off. As the surface water runs faster than the bottom.

Although the last drives down the two creeks were made during World War II, Gardiner Mill Company did not finally surrender its boom franchise until 1958 after legislation pressed by the sports fishing interest ended splash dam logging in Oregon.¹⁴⁵

RECOMMENDATION

The State, through the Public Service Commission under its powers in Chapter 128 of the Laws of 1917, determined that the Smith River was a navigable stream for log flotation during regularly recurring seasons of each year (otherwise it could not legally have granted the Gardiner Mill Company a boom franchise for the river up to its source.) Gunter is the highest point from which there is evidence of actual use over several years time to drive logs to tidewater. As their use of the upper river was of such doubtful success, however, the upper limit achieved by the Gardiner Mill Company camps is a more satisfactory head of log navigation.

The head of log navigation with unaided streamflows on the West Fork was River Mile 9. Vessel navigation was confined to tidewater areas, River Mile 22, on the main stem and River Mile 2 or 3 on the North Fork. These conform to the Corps of Engineers traditional head of navigation for those waterways of River Mile 23.1 and 1.2 which the Division of State Lands should adopt. If a court of competent jurisdiction rules that log flotation is evidence of navigability for title purposes, then the State should claim to River Mile 9 of the West Fork and River Mile 60 of Smith River.

Since the several uses of the North Fork of the Umpqua such as commercial fishing and commercial guide use has been of limited character and log driving, though successful in itself, was rendered unsatisfactory by the inability of booms to hold the logs, it would seem best that the Division remain with the decision of the State Land Board in 1975 to claim only to Scottsburg on the Umpqua. Should log driving later be found to be evidence of commercial navigation for title purposes, however, this use of the North Umpqua and lower portions of the main stem of the Umpqua should be reevaluated. The only other

stream in the Umpqua basin which should be reevaluated by that criteria would be Elk Creek and its tributaries. All other streams in the basin used for log flotation were either unsatisfactory or, as was the case of Mill and Camp Creeks, depended upon artificial aids.

Otherwise the State has claim to the following reaches of Umpqua tributaries which have been determined to be traditionally navigable by the U. S. Corps of Engineers:

<u>Waterway</u>	<u>Upper Limit</u>
Mill Creek	RM 1.7
Dean Creek	1.5
Schofield Creek	5.3
Butler Creek	1.1
Frantz Creek	0.5
Otter Slough	1.0
Hudson Slough	Entire
McIntosh Slough	Entire

FOOTNOTES

1. Lewis A. McArthur, Oregon Geographic Names, 4th ed. (Portland: Oregon Historical Society, 1974), p. 679.
2. Oregon Water Resources Board, Umpqua River Basin (Salem, 1958), pp. 142, 147, and Drainage Basin Map 16.6 (1974).
3. Bureau of Land Management road sign near Twin Sisters.
4. U. S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Data for Oregon, 1978, Water-Data Report OR-78-1 (Portland, 1979), pp. 459, 467, 468, 470, 487, 490; Division of State Lands, "Umpqua River Navigability Study," (1976), pp. 1-27.
5. Interview with Everett Abbott, Gardiner, 30 Aug 1979.
6. Florence, The West, 6 Mar 1903; and see H. A. Minter, Umpqua Valley Oregon and its Pioneers (Portland: Binford & Mort, 1967), pp. 78-82; John Clark Hunt, "Smith River Saga," American Forests 60:7 (July 1954), p. 23.
7. Gardiner Index, 18 Aug 1916.
8. Lower Umpqua Historical Society, Pictorial History of the Lower Umpqua (Reedsport, 1976), pp. 56, 61, 62, 64, 65.
9. Douglas County Museum interview with Everett Abbott, Gardiner, 19 Mar 1979, pp. 6-7.
10. Hunt, "Smith River," pp. 22-23.
11. G[ardiner] M[ill] C[ompany] MSS, 1909 Correspondence, (MSS BB G 169), University of Oregon Library, Eugene.
12. A. G. Walling, History of Southern Oregon (1884), p. 436.
13. Roseburg Plaindealer, 10 May 1872 and see Roseburg Pantagraph, 1 Feb 1873.
14. Hunt, "Smith River," pp. 20-22 and see Roseburg Western Star, 19 Dec 1879.
15. Drain Echo, 28 Jan, 4 Feb, 9 and 16 Dec 1887; Roseburg Review, 25 Oct 1894; Roseburg Plaindealer, 12 Mar 1896; Hunt, "Smith River," p. 23; Oregon Public Service Commission Hearing re: Application of the Gardiner Boom Company for a Franchise [on Smith River and Mill and Camp Creeks], 15 Sep 1917, p. 11, MSS RC-F-12, 69A-15, Item 1, Box 2, File L-F-8, Oregon State Archives, Salem.
16. "Recollections of George Perkins," pp. 45-46, 53, Douglas County Museum Library, Roseburg.
17. G M C to John Leach, Glenada, 10 Dec 1914, G M C MSS, Sundry Correspondence 1913-14, "L".

18. Perkins Recollections, pp. 52-53, and see "Recollections of Oscar Anderson, Gardiner," p. 2, Douglas County Museum.
19. Drain Echo, April 1888.
20. Telephone interview with William Wroe, Grants Pass, 31 Aug 1979.
21. Ibid., G M C MSS, Sundry Correspondence 1907-08, "Frank A. Alley." A photograph of Alley is in S. A. D. Puter and Horace Stevens, Looters of The Public Domain (Portland: Portland Printing House, 1908), p. 165.
22. Everett Abbott interview, 30 Aug 1979; for Sam Wilson's earlier logging on Smith River see C[olumbia] R[iver and] O[regon] T[imberman] 1:11 (Sep 1900), p. 10.
23. Abbott interview, 30 Aug 1979.
24. Ibid.; Public Service Commission hearing, p. 10
25. Abbott interview, 30 Aug 1979; Wroe interview; and see Timberman 7:8 (June 1906), p. 37.
26. Douglas County Museum Library MSS A-5, hh.
27. Roseburg Review, 8 Mar 1906.
28. Barbara Vatter, "List of Loggers," Douglas County Museum Library File A-5 (qq); Ben McKinney to Messrs. Jewett and Hinsdale, 28 Apr 1908, G M C MSS, Sundry Correspondence, 1907-08, "M".
29. Douglas County Museum Library, OH #119, John Gunter, p. 13.
30. Ed Renie, Woolley to G M C, 30 July, 6 Dec 1907, 7 Mar, 12 Dec 1908, G M C MSS, Sundry Correspondence, 1907-08, "R".
31. Abbott interview, 30 Aug 1979.
32. G. W. Wooley, Wooley to G M C, 22 Jan 1908, G M C MSS, Sundry Correspondence, 1907-08, "W".
33. Ibid., G M C to B. Walker, Wooley, 18 Apr 1907.
34. Ibid., "M", G M C to Thomas Molany, 27 Feb 1908.
35. Ibid., G M C to J. O. Gunter, 16 Dec 1914, Sundry Correspondence, 1914, "G".
36. Ibid., R. E. Teague to G M C, Sundry Correspondence, 1915-16, "T".
37. Ibid., George Woolley and Fred Clark to G M C, 24 Nov 1916, Sundry Correspondence, 1915-16, "W".
38. Transcript of Oral History Tape #31, p. 3, Douglas County Museum.

39. Gardiner Mill Company Correspondence, 11 Dec 1914, p. 2.
40. O. B. Hinsdale to R. G. Baldaree, Black Rocks, 10 May 1916, Sundry Correspondence, 1915-16, "B".
41. Public Service Commission Records, 18 Mar 1919 and Order No. 365 (15 Apr 1918), in L-F-8.
42. B. A. Vatter, "Forest History of Douglas County" (unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University of Oregon, 19), p. 258.
43. Public Utilities Commission Correspondence, 13 Sep 1943.
44. Wroe interview.
45. Douglas County Circuit Court Cases 90-1, 21 ans see 45-30 and 195-504, Douglas County Courthouse, Roseburg; "Mill File" A-5, Douglas County Museum, Roseburg.
46. Roseburg Western Star, 21 Nov, 5 Dec 1879.
47. Ibid., 12, 19 Dec 1879.
48. Information from George Abdill, Director, Douglas County Museum, July 1981.
49. Micelli v Andrus (61 Or 78), Transcript of Testimony, pp. 13, 18, State Archives, Salem.
50. Information from George Abdill and see Division of State Lands , "Umpqua River Navigability Study" (1976), p. 109.
51. Lavola J. Bakken, Lone Rock Free State (Myrtle Creek, 1970), pp. 38, 40; Roseburg Western Star, 17 Mar 1880.
52. Douglas County Museum "Mill File" A-5; Douglas County Circuit Court Case 90-1,21.
53. A. G. Walling, History of Southern Oregon (1884), p. 391.
54. 1880 Census, Original Schedule 3 of Manufactures, "Sawmills," Douglas County, Myrtle Creek and Mt. Scott Precinct on Microfilm 28-49, Oregon State Library, Salem.
55. Bakken, Lone Rock, p. 41; Douglas County Circuit Court Cases 69-5, 85-34 Testimony, pp. 40, 71.
56. Douglas County Loggers Liens, pp. 78-82, Douglas County Courthouse.
57. Douglas County "Improvement of Streams" Book, p. 12, Douglas County Courthouse.
58. Roseburg Review, 10 Jan 1901.

59. W. R. Vinson, "Building of the Dam at Winchester," Charles Stanton File J, Douglas County Museum and see H. F. Pearson to Chas. Stanton, 11-9-[19]69. Pearson says that Dumbleton had the dam built in 1890, but this may be off by a decade.
60. Bakken, Lone Rock, p. 110; "Improvement of Streams," p. 12.
61. Roseburg Review, 22 Feb 1904; CROT, 5:7 (May 1904), p. 26; 5:8 (June 1904), p. 32; Bakken, Lone Rock, p. 111.
62. Florence West, 14 Apr 1904.
63. CROT, 3:10 (Aug 1902), p. 6; Douglas County Circuit Court Cases 189-10, 12.
64. CROT, 5:10 (Aug 1904), p. 21.
65. Douglas County Log Mark Record, Vol. I, 8, Douglas County Courthouse.
66. Roseburg Review, 15 Jan 1906.
67. Ibid., 18 Jan 1906.
68. Ibid., 25 Jan, 5, 15 Feb 1906.
69. GMC Sundry Correspondence, 1907-08 "B", 11 Feb 1907; Roseburg Review, 7 Jan, 23 Feb 1907.
70. J. L. and S. A. Kendall, Roseburg to GMC, 27 Jan, 10 May 1909, GMC General Letters, 1909; Douglas County Circuit Court Cases 151-7, 8; 203-578; H. F. Pearson to Chas. Stanton, 11-9-69, Douglas County Museum.
71. Irl Binder, "The Mills of Elkton," Umpqua Trapper, 3:2 (1967), pp. 7, 9; Binder dates the event 1910, but GMC Sundry Correspondence, 1915-16 "H", April 13, 1915 states that GMC would buy the Oscar Warner Anderson logs caught at Scottsburg though this may refer to another event.
72. Roseburg Plaindealer, dates in text; and see CROT, 7:8 (June 1906), p. 37. Some of the drives referred to in the Plaindealer might have originated in upper tidal reaches, because it was often easier to float logs from such locations on high river waters.
73. Douglas County Museum Oral History #89, p. 10 and MSS A-5 (qq); and see GMC General Letters 1909 "Coshow & Rice," 12 May 1909.
74. Douglas County Mechanics Lien Book I, pp. 100-01.
75. GMC Sundry Correspondence, 1913-14 "J", 8 Sep, 2 Nov, 3 Dec 1914.
76. PUC MSS RGP-12, 69A-18, File L-F-32, passim, State Archives.
77. Fish Warden, Fish Register, 1901, MSS RGF5, 57I-84, Item 4b, State Archives; H. F. Pearson, "The Silver Horde of the Umpqua," Umpqua Trapper, 2:1 (Spring, Summer 1966), pp. 7-8, 14, see Division of State Lands, Rogue River Navigability Study (1979), pp. 57, 59-66.

78. WPA File E-12, Douglas County Museum; Roseburg Review, 18 Mar 1901.
79. Oregon Laws, 1911, p. 310.
80. Pearson, "Silver Horde," p. 15. For commercial guides see Division of State Lands, "Umpqua River Navigability Report," pp. 117, 123.
81. Douglas County Museum Library File A-5 (y).
82. 1880 Census, Schedule 3 "Sawmills," Douglas County; Walling, History, p. 434.
83. Roseburg Western Star, 20 Feb 1880.
84. Walling, History, p. 431.
85. Douglas County Museum Library, File A-5 (pp).
86. Walling, History, p. 441.
87. Drain Echo, 20 Apr 1888.
88. Sawmill notes of Charles Applegate, Douglas County Museum Library.
89. Douglas County Circuit Court Case 76-18 and see cases 67-1, 3, 4, 8, 10.
90. Douglas County Mechanics Lien Book I, p. 91; Douglas County Museum Library File A-5 (z) and (qq).
91. Douglas County Circuit Court Cases 97-9, 78-30.
92. Douglas County Mechanics Lien Book I, p. 149.
93. Ibid., p. 71.
94. Douglas County Circuit Court Case 97-9, "Defendants Answer" and 97-10.
95. Roseburg Review, 4 Dec 1893.
96. Roseburg Plaindealer, 16 Dec 1897.
97. Roseburg Review, 4 Apr 1895; Vatter, "List of Loggers".
98. Roseburg Plaindealer, 24 Mar 1898.
99. Douglas County Mechanics Lien Book I, p. 85.
100. Roseburg Plaindealer, 26 Dec 1898.
101. Douglas County Circuit Court Cases 151-18, 179-4; Mechanics Lien Book I, p. 485; 57 Or 189.
102. W. H. Jones, Elkton to GMC, 7 Jan 1908, GMC Sundry Correspondence 1907-08 "J".

103. Binder, "Mills of Elkton," pp. 4-7 and see Timberman, 8:3 (Jan 1907), p. 32A.
104. Drain Nonpareil, 23 June 1904.
105. Ibid., 23 Mar 1905; Timberman, 5:8 (June 1904), p. 32; Sawmill notes of Charles Applegate.
106. Roseburg Review, 1 Mar 1906.
107. Drain Nonpareil, 23 Mar 1905; Roseburg Umpqua Valley News, 4 Dec 1905.
108. Douglas County Mechanics Lien Book I, p. 93.
109. Timberman, 8:9 (July 1907), p. 23.
110. A. B. Fritzmacher to GMC, 25 Nov 1909, GMC General Letters 1909.
111. Douglas County Oral History Tape #31.
112. 1880 Census, Schedule 3 "Sawmills," Douglas County, Myrtle Creek Precinct.
113. Walling, History, p. 422.
114. Roseburg Review, 12 Dec 1901.
115. Ibid., 16 May 1901.
116. Douglas County Circuit Court Cases 158-1, 11, 28.
117. Glendale Log, 13 Mar 1903; Johnson registered his log brand WPJ with the Douglas County Clerk on 27 July 1903, Douglas County Log Mark Record I, 7, Douglas County Courthouse.
118. Douglas County Circuit Court Case 146-10 and see 1661-7.
119. Timberman, 7:3 (Jan 1906), p. 60; Douglas County Circuit Court Case 187-16; Drain Nonpareil, 27 Jan 1911.
120. "Clarke's Sawmill at Millwood", Douglas County Musuem Library; Walling, History, p. 427; Umpqua Ensign, 27 Feb 1869; 1880 Census, Schedule of Manufacturer "Sawmills, Douglas County, Coler Valley Precinct; Roseburg Plaindealer, 26 Apr 1870, 26 Mar 1903.
121. Vatter, "List of Loggers".
122. Douglas County Mechanics Lien Book I, p. 293; Douglas County Circuit Court Case 139-19.
123. Information from Fay Madison, Winchester, June 1981, Douglas County Musuem Library.

124. Notes of information from Irl Binder, Elkton attached to previous entry.
125. Douglas County Musuem Library File A-5 (oo), p. 3.
126. Douglas County Logger's Liens, I, p. 195; George Abdill recalls having seen a photograph of a log drive on Cow Creek.
127. PUC MSS RGP-12, 69A-18, L-F-28.
128. Ibid., 69A-18, Correspondence, 26 Feb 1942.
129. Walling, History, pp. 164, 421.
130. Roseburg Review, 25 Jan 1906.
131. Walling, History, pp. 439-40.
132. Timberman, 7:8 (June 1906), p. 37.
133. GMC to A. L. Butler, 7 May 1907, O. B. Hinsdale to J. R. Butler, 3 June 1908, GMC Sundry Correspondence, 1907-08, "B".
134. Ibid., "E".
135. Hinsdale to Esselstrom, 30 Aug 1910, J. P. Christie to Coshow & Rice, Roseburg, GMC Sundry Correspondence, 1910-13, "E" and "C".
136. Ibid., "E".
137. GMC to Coshow & Rice, 8 Sep 1911, Ibid., "C".
138. GMC to Esselstrom, Camp Creek, 13 Aug 1914, Esselstrom to O. B. Hinsdale, 25 Oct 1914, GMC Sundry Correspondence, 1914, "E".
139. Esselstrom to Hinsdale, 12 Jan 1915, GMC Sundry Correspondence, 1915-16, "E".
140. Ibid., 1 Nov 1915.
141. GMC to Eddy, 22 Jan 1919, GMC Sundry Correspondence, 1919-23, "E".
142. RGP-12, 60A-18, L-F 8, State Archives.
143. Ibid., L-F-30.
144. Karen Luchessa interview with Fay Madison, June 1981, U. S. Forest Service Research Department, Corvallis.
145. RGP-12, 69A-18, L-F-8.