

Bradford County sawmill

Single pine tree scales 1800 board feet

BY JANE BRESEE
Staff Correspondent

BUMPVILLE — Old, tall, native white pine trees are becoming increasingly rare in Bradford County and custom saw mills are few and far between.

Recently one of the giant century old pines was cut and hauled to be sawed at Lyle Eiklor's sawmill near Bumpville in north central Bradford County.

John Allen, a professional logger, cut down the 80 foot tall pine near Wysox. It scaled 1800 board feet in the woods and was cut into six logs. Four were taken to Eiklor's mill, and the upper two, knotty with tree limbs, were hauled away for another use.

The bugg lot, measuring 39 inches at its widest part, was first on the carriage to be sawed.

"Shaping it up" into a square beam by turning and sawing it three or four times required the skill of an expert sawyer, Elmer Crain of Bumpville. Fifteen prize boards, 19.5 inches wide, one inch thick, and 14 feet long, a plank, and some smaller pieces were the fruit of the butt log.

Eiklor delivered 1300 board feet of beautiful pine boards from that one tree to Ed Cook of Wysox, a mason and carpenter, who had always dreamed of having some lumber from "one of those old pine trees."



Lyle Eiklor's custom sawmill, north of Wysox in Bradford County, is one of the county's few remaining mills. Logs from one of the local old pine trees lie just inside the mill.

Cook stacked them to dry for at least a year, but has not decided how to use them.

Lyle Eiklor's custom sawmill, nestled down in a hollow near a creek, is one of the few left in Bradford County. He and his brother, Clayton, built the mill about 15 years ago installing some of the equipment from an old sawmill in Owego.

An old Case tractor engine bolted down on one side of the mill powers the 52 inch saw, the edger, and a blower which sends sawdust into a waiting wagon outside. Eiklor uses the sawdust for bedding for his herd of 56 prize Herefords on his farm nearby.

He also has a planer set up

on his barn floor to make matched boards.

Eiklor's son, Leslie, brother Clayton, and his neighbor, Elmer Crain, help with the sawing three or four times a week. Frequently neighbors drop in to watch or help

Eiklor who still lives in the same house where he was born has a nostalgia for the "way things used to be" and felt that the sawing of the old pine tree was an event that deserved being recorded for others to know.

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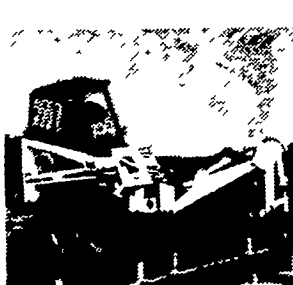
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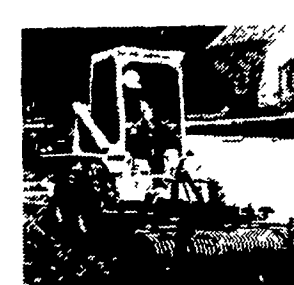
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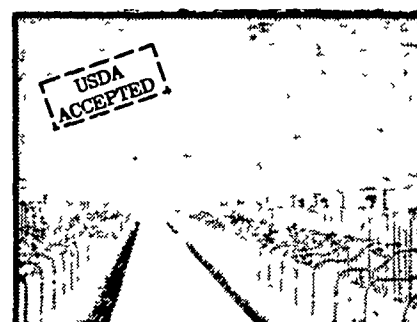
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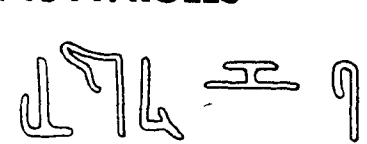


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