

FG47



FOREST OWNER

the voice of 255,000 forest owners in New York
 - representing an ownership of 11 million acres

Mrs. Luella B. Palmer Dies

VOLUME 8

JANUARY-APRIL 1970

NUMBER 1-4

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MRS. LUELLA B. PALMER

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 AND FORESTRY

February 24, 1970

Dr. Floyd E. Carlson
College of Forestry
Syracuse, N. Y. 13210

Dear Dr. Carlson:

We are in need of help. The N. Y. Forest Owners Association can give this help and in so doing they will be establishing a legal road block to the destruction of timber lands by New York State.

In 1965 an Association of approximately 35 members on Cayuta Lake in Schuyler County became incorporated (hence no legal responsibility) and built a dam in the outlet of Cayuta Lake. This raised the water level; flooded our resort and some forest lands - approximately 94 acres. We have pictures of 2' dying ash trees with ten inches of water around them. This dam was illegally installed, although they had twice been informed by the NYS Conservation Department that a permit was required. A permit was not received until 1967 in July. One of the conditions of the permit was that the lake level was to be maintained at 1315.5' above sea level. Average summer level is 1315.2'. This condition, plus others, were not lived up to. In 1968, the NYS Water Resources Board gave them a permanent permit against our strenuous objections. In this permanent permit, they were given a maximum water level at the dam of 1316.42' with nothing said about lake level.

In brief, let me say that we have been in two hearings before the Water Resources Board, and two appeals at Albany, plus a two weeks court case before Judge Harold Simpson of Superior Court. This case ended in May of 1969. However, the Judge hasn't given a decision yet.

If this case goes on the record against us as plaintiff, it means that NYS will have the right to set lake levels on all private lakes in NYS. This, in turn, gives them the right to take land without due process. It is a very important point.

In a rough way you are up to date - at present Ted Day has introduced a bill in the Senate for us, and Mr. Mason in the Assembly, which states that the NYS Water Resources Board will not issue a permit for a dam which will affect the water level of a privately owned lake in Schuyler County where 20% of the shore line owners give legal objection to such dam. It also states that where a dam has been operated illegally and subsequently a permit was issued, such permit shall be cancelled. The bill applies only to Schuyler County.

I am enclosing a copy of Exhibit No. 103 of Superior Court. I have underlined the statement that the Association has the full backing of the Water Resources Board. It is very obvious as to why the Board wants to win this case. They will then have the power to control water levels on all private lakes and as a result, they can take land without the process of Eminent Domain.

Incidentally, I talked to Dave Hanaburgh about this when we had the meeting at Arnot Forest. He wanted me to write it up so that it could be published to the membership. I never did it.

I feel that this decision is of the utmost importance to land owners in NYS. Could we get together in Syracuse and discuss the matter? I will be away until March 7th, after that I'm available anytime.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ James W. Allen

In a letter dated March 24th, Mr. Allen stated that the number of the Assembly Bill is 5609 and in the Senate, the Bill is number 8687. If any NYFOA members want to express their feelings on this legislation, write Mr. Clarence Lane in the Assembly and Mr. Bernard Smith in the Senate.

Mrs. Luella Palmer Dies

Mrs. Luella Blakeslee Palmer, 59, of 157 Ballantyne Road, Syracuse, a founder of the State Forest Owners' Association died February 8th after a long illness.

She was born in Cazenovia. Until recently she was treasurer and membership secretary of our organization and all of us who were ever in contact with her at the various meetings throughout the years will miss her greatly. An article she wrote, "Rejuvenation of a Forest", published in the September-December issue of Forest Owner, has been widely distributed throughout the state.

Eli Blakeslee, her great-grandfather, brought the first organ into Central New York by oxcart. He helped establish the first Episcopal church in the region, at Paris Hill, Madison County.

A graduate of Syracuse University and Cazenovia College, she was an active member of the Central New York Girl Scout Council for many years, serving from counselor to campership committee chairman, and was a pioneer in promoting coed camping. In addition, she also was active in Girl Scouting at Camp Askenonta.

Surviving are her husband, Eriel D. Palmer of the State Forestry College; a son, Alan, and a sister, Helen B. Russell of Sarasota, Florida.

Contributions may be made to Central New York Girl Scout Council memorial fund.

Every magazine you read and every piece of paper you handle stems from a tree. Office copying machines alone now use between one and two million tons of paper a year -- up from practically zero consumption only a decade ago.

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Biographical Sketches of Candidates

Robert M. Ford, Binghamton, N. Y. - Bob has had extreme interest in forests and forestry and has been associated with the State Forest Practice Act as District member, State Board member and as former chairman of the State Forest Practice Board when F. O. A. was formed. He regrets that he owns only 25 acres of forest land in Chenango County. He has been a capable spokesman for forest interests for many years in his association with District 2 of the Forest Practice Board. Outdoor activities, and especially winter ice-fishing, have been his hobbies.

Mrs. Joyce (Robert W.) Gilmore, New York, N. Y. - B.A., Swarthmore College, 1951. Chairman of the Executive Committee, Publishers Clearing House, Port Washington, N. Y. President, Artz Foundation, New York, N. Y. Member of the Board of Directors, New York Friends Group, Inc., New York, N. Y. Resident of New York City and, with husband Dr. Robert Wallace Gilmore, co-owner of two town houses in Manhattan and woodlot holdings in Columbia County, near Millerstown, N. Y., consisting of 425 acres of forest (about 350 acres) and farmland (about 80 acres). Objective is to find ways of using forest products that will make it economically feasible to preserve large forest holdings and improve their value without destroying the natural, aesthetic, and wilderness quality. In both city and country, we have long been interested in the kind of land use planning which helps to preserve aesthetic and natural values and to avoid careless development and urban (as well as suburban) sprawl. To this end, we have supported the efforts of such conservation groups as the Municipal Art Society, The Sierra Club, the Scenic Hudson Preservation Conference, Wilderness Society, and others.

Wesley U. Hansen, Hadley, N. Y. - My interest in forestry started in upper Wisconsin when I spent the first four years after coming from Denmark in 1924, including two years at Northland College in Ashland, Wis. Though my work at the New York Telephone Company was inside in central offices, I always spent a lot of time outdoors, much of it in scouting. Since I retired, we moved upstate to our home in the woods in the town of Day, Saratoga County, and I can now devote more time to my pet project, to improve our 110 acre woodlot, partly for recreation, but also hoping to make it a paying proposition. So far, it has at least balanced in our favor.

Pat S. Loucks, Kirkville, N. Y. - "Pat" is a career employee of the U. S. D. A. with the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service; he has been program specialist for many years and is responsible for the administration of the agricultural conservation program; the Appalachian Land Stabilization program and other related programs. Though not a forest land owner, he has served the F.O.A. on the publicity committee and Heiberg Memorial Award committee. After growing up on a St. Lawrence county dairy farm, he obtained B.S. and M. Ed. degrees from St. Lawrence University; did graduate work at the College of Agriculture at Cornell and taught school six years before joining the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Mary Maag, Castleton on Hudson, N. Y. - Graduated 1949, Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich, Switzerland. Since 1954 in the U. S. Employment with Celanese Corporation and Brock Felt Company. President of MS Instrument Company, Inc., designers and distributors of apparatus and special machinery for testing laboratories. Member Board of Managers, Skye Farm Camps of the United Methodist Church. Member Village Planning Board, Castleton, N. Y. Together with wife, Elly, extensive work for improvements and programs at Skye Farm Camps. In 1969 appointed a director of the N.Y.F.O.A. and appointed membership secretary in Luella Palmer's place. 30 acres forest holding in the town of Stony Creek, Warren County.

Walter D. Melvin, Liverpool, N. Y. - Born 2/26/28. Graduate Clarkson College 1956. Graduate College of Law, Syracuse University 1959. Practicing lawyer in firm of Melvin & Melvin. Married to Ann Ross in 1961. Children Ross, 7; John 5; Nancy, 5.

Alfred Najer, Chestertown, N. Y. - Engaged in the lumber business for over 50 years, Al sold his sawmill in North Creek to devote more time to his tree farms. He and his wife, Gladys, own about 700 acres in Warren County. He is cooperator of F.P.A. and A.S.C.S.; of over 100,000 seedlings planted, about half are Scotch pine christmas trees, the balance are white spruce, red pine, Austrian pine, Douglas fir and Japanese larch. He has a licensed evergreen nursery. Hardwood stands have been improved by selective cutting, softwood through stand improvement. This is also being applied to cultivation of natural Balsam christmas trees. Al is a director of the F.O.A., member of the New York Christmas Tree Growers Association, past president of the Chestertown Rotary Club, Park Commissioner of the Town of Chester; trustee and chairman of the Building Committee of his church, part chairman of the Chestertown Youth Commission, past member of the executive board of the Mohican Council, Boy Scouts of America. He is now Troy Conference Director of General Church School Work and member of the Board of Managers of Dept. of Camps and Conferences. Also, a member of American Forest Products Industries, American Forestry Association, National Wildlife Association, Life Member of National Congress of P.T.A., and Navigators Club of Seaman's Church Institute.

John Smigel, Preston Hollow, N. Y. - Farm operator of 1200 acres, with his son, in Albany County. Six hundred acres are in woods. He has improved 155 acres up until 1966 when he received recognition from the F.P.A. for his outstanding forestry work. Since then he has launched on a program of improving 25 acres more. Member American Tree Farm System, delegate to the Eastern Milk Producers Association, member Farm Bureau, member Albany County A.S.C. Committee, director North Shore Bird and Game Sanctuary at Millneck, L. I., N. Y. He has studied game management and has taken forestry courses at Rutgers University. A herd of 150 milking Shorthorns and 30 registered Holsteins make up the dairy enterprise and he has recently reduced his herd of Morgan horses from 26 to 4 brood stock.

Lloyd G. Strombeck, Owego, N. Y. - Lloyd is executive director of the Tioga Opportunities Program and a former 4-H Club Agent in Chenango, Tioga, Cattaraugus and Onondaga Counties. He has been president of the New York State Association of 4-H Agents; secretary-treasurer and 1st vice president, and president of the National 4-H Agents Association and has served as secretary to the program committee of the New York Forest Owners Association. He has also been active in many of the civic programs in Tioga and Chenango Counties. In partnership with Howard Ward, the firm of Ward and Strombeck -- a Certified Tree Farm, he has been managing several acres of natural forest land and is producing a large number of Christmas trees yearly. In 1964 he did graduate study in forest management and land use planning at the College of Forestry in Syracuse. Chairman, F.O.A. Committee on Land Use and Resource Development; member of F.O.A. Membership Committee, assisted with preparation of membership brochure and standards for loggers. Has served 1 year as Director of F.O.A.