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New York

Forest Owner

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SUNY COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND FORESTRY



Season's Greetings

November - December 1978

THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

DIRECTOR'S MEETING October 21, '78

President, BOB SAND opened the meeting at 10 a.m. with a report from Hardy Shirley on his woods walk the previous Saturday. Shirley asked the Board about establishing chapters of NYFOA around the state. It was considered a good idea. It was also suggested that there be a woods walk chairman to coordinate with Dick Lea for woods walks. BILL POWERS offered to be on the committee with Dick.

In a report on the FALL MEETING at Robert's, Sand said he had paid all the bills and given \$80 to the treasurer.

THE TREASURER reported a bank balance of \$4,190.80. Of this \$3,693 is in a timed interest account. The budget for the FOREST OWNER is exhausted. Palmer will loan the association money to print the November-December issue. The trust account will mature in 1980 and we will forfeit too much to take money from that Palmer said. The receipts for the year have been \$3,662 and the expenses \$3,778.

EUGENE FARNSWORTH accepted a place on the budget committee to replace Palmer who for health reasons has had to curtail his activities.

BOB DEMEREE suggested a workshop on 'firewood'. "Our organization could sponsor a function like this". He also cited the fact that the regulations on fire wood and the attack on 480A are the two important things in forestry this year.

KEN EBERLY reported that there were 589 members in the NYFOA; and that he had an exhibit at both the Empire Field Days, and the Booneville Woods men's field days.

The ANNUAL MEETING will be held April 21. The theme will be "CONSULTING FORESTER" with state-private-consulting foresters on hand, and a for profit orientation.

DR. SHIRLEY suggested that it would be easier and more accurate to measure wood by the cubic meter, and help solve the regulation problem.

JANUARY 13, will be the date of the next director's meeting - in Marshall Hall.

* * *

JOHN SMIGEL, former Director from Preston Hollow, Albany county was killed by a car he was pulling with a tractor, this past summer. It got away pushing him over a bank

* * *

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President
ROBERT M. SAND
Odessa, NY 14869

First Vice-President
GORDON CONKLIN
RD#2, Trumansburg, NY

2nd Vice-President
HOWARD WARD
240 Owego St., Candor, NY

3rd Vice-President
ROBERT EDMONDS
RD#1, Marathon, NY

Recording Secretary
LEWIS DU MOND
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EMIEL PALMER
S. Salina St., Syracuse, NY

DIRECTORS - 1979
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Gordon L. Conklin
Richard C. Fassett
Robert R. Morrow
Hardy L. Shirley
Evelyn A. Stock

* *

DIRECTORS - 1980
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Lloyd G. Strombeck
Howard O. Ward
Kenneth Williams

* *

DIRECTORS - 1981
Robert Demeree
Kenneth L. Eberley
James P. Lassoie
Frederick A. Umholtz
C. Eugene Farnsworth
David Hanaburgh
Robert M. Sand

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our calendar, with each passing day, reminds us of the approaching New Year. All of us in New York State should be cognizant of what a delightful year 1978 has been. Most of the days were a joy for gardeners or golfers, farmers or foresters, campers or sunbathers, and especially insects. North-eastern trees responded to an excellent growing season. Even our Fall Foliage was above average for color and young and old alike enjoyed the added brilliant display. For those of us producing Christmas trees, the response to this summer's near perfect growing season allowed us to develop probably our best trees in many years. Others, with both hardwood and softwood stumpage, experienced strong markets for all wood products, with prices being pushed considerably higher due to good demand for both logs and lumber.

We are indeed thankful for a year of bounty.

N.Y.F.O.A. membership has also showed good growth this year. Our numbers have each month increased. Those of you who have contemplated a one year GIFT MEMBERSHIP to your neighbor or close friend, might take time now to contact our Membership Secretary, Mrs. Helen Varian by mail and request that she add your GIFT PERSON to our roster. Such "gifts" are a bargain. Only \$5.00 for a full year's membership to N.Y.F.O.A. She will send an appropriate mailing to inform them of your thoughtfulness and for a full year this Association will increase its effectiveness via your gift. There is no present limit on the number of "gifts", ONLY that YOU must pay for each personally.

This summer, our WOOD'S WALK program has been a real success. The first, near Cornwall, was organized by Jack Karnig on the Harvard Black Rock Forest. Next, Howard O. Ward hosted his Tioga County property outside of Candor. This was followed by a day on the Chataqua County forestland owned by Curtis H. Bauer, a Consulting Forester who has practiced his profession for many years. Then on Sept. 30th., the ANNUAL FALL MEETING included a field trip on the Tompkins County holding owned by Al. Roberts near Groton, with over 70 attending. And finally, the Wood's Walk held by Dean & Mrs. Hardy L. Shirley in Essex County visiting "SHIRLEY FORESTS" not far distant from Lake Champlain in the Reber area.

To each forestowner who sponsored a Wood's Walk, we are indeed indebted. Our sincere thanks for sharing that day with others is most appreciated. For such visits afford a rare opportunity to learn first-hand a little of the expertise that comes with owning and managing a forest.

Before closing, I want to express very special thanks to Dr. Dick Lea, our WOOD'S WALK Chairman this year, the one who got the whole schedule organized and publicized.

HAVE YOU RETURNED YOUR INSERT FROM THE LAST FOREST OWNER TO JIM LASSOIE YET ? Every return is important and only you can complete the questionnaire.

The Thanksgiving season will soon be here. I hope your day with family and friends will be most pleasant.

Sincerely,



GROWTH OF EUROPEAN LARCH
AT FIVE SPACINGS
by
Robert R. Morrow

Professor Robert Morrow of the Department of Natural Resources, New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Cornell University, has just had published his 25-year growth records of European larch planted at different spacings. He concludes that initial plant spacings of 8 x 10 or 8 x 12 feet will yield satisfactory results for many forest owners. Further, wide spacing is no substitute for thinning - it only delays the need for thinning by a few years.

For details and growth data write the Publications Mailing Room, Building 7, Research Park, Cornell University, Ithaca NY 14853 for a copy of "Growth of European Larch at Five Spacings," New York Food and Life Sciences Bulletin #75. August 1978.

* * *

AL ROBERTS IS NOT EMBARRASSED

by Robert A. Hellmann

AL ROBERTS is a man who is not embarrassed to talk about money. And that is exactly what he did on the woods walk through his property at the fall meeting on September 30, and so made it one of the best meetings I have attended so far.

Al's principal money-making operation is his Christmas tree plantation, consisting of beautifully maintained crops of spruce, balsam, Scotch pine, and Douglas fir. By carefully mowing around the trees to control brush and by shearing to ensure full dense form, he produces a highly desirable crop for which he has no trouble finding a market.

GOOD PRODUCT

He believes that if you have a good product people will buy. He has experimented with fertilization with some beneficial results but admits that he cannot be very precise about the benefits from the attempts so far. I must confess that I have never seen balsam firs anywhere with such lush needle growth, whether due to fertilization or to good native soil and careful cultivation, I am not sure. But beautiful trees they were.

LOVE OF THE FOREST

But don't let Al's dry money humor and meticulously accumulated notes on finances mislead you. It soon became clear that his operation was the work

of the whole man, one with a sense of loving the forest, not just money-grubbing. On a 35 acre northern hardwood forest he has been culling stems for stand improvement, producing a continuing crop of sugar maple firewood, split stacked, and field-seasoned. Of course he sells this for money, as a cash crop second in importance to his Christmas tree farm.

MODEL HARDWOOD STAND

In the process he has produced a model of a managed hardwood stand principally sugar maple, but also containing scattered magnificent boles of black cherry.

Al asks questions of his forest, and so he has marked a number of stems in a sample plot of his own selection, and takes measurements of their annual growth. From this he has made tentative calculations about the financial returns from the forest. Is the investment in the forest land better than money in the bank when taxes, inflation and so on are all taken into account? Ask Al.

One thing stood out clear to me. His whole family has been involved in the work. His lovely wife Moira, three of his children and a five month old grandchild accompanied us on the walk. Us being about 100 members and other interested people. We were pleased to see what a physically and psychologically healthy quality of life they have. In these days that is worth a lot, wouldn't you agree?



RETURN OF THE CHESTNUT

by

LANCE CONKLIN

Like a sleeping giant awakened, the American chestnut may rise again to the place of prominence it once held. In the early 1900's it was a species prized not only for lumber and fence posts, but also treasured for its edible nuts. After years of near extinction caused by the chestnut blight, a destructive fungus, the chestnut is making a comeback...thanks to concerned people like Earl Douglas of Red Creek, New York.

Earl was interested in the problem of low resistance to the blight that has devastated the chestnut. He found an opportunity to engage in work with this problem when a customer of his (he sold Surge milkers and equipment) gave him a dozen nuts from an American chestnut which had temporarily escaped the epidemic. In an effort to produce a chestnut variety resistant to the blight, Earl decided to experiment with cross-breeding of resistant strains with the American species.

CROSSED

He planted Oriental chestnuts in the same area as the American chestnut with the plan that cross-pollination would occur. Oriental chestnuts have assets and drawbacks...they are resistant to the chestnut blight and do produce edible nuts, but they are not producers of quality timber.

Some of the seedlings produced from a cross of American and Oriental strains would hopefully have the timber quality of the American chestnut, the resistance to blight of the Oriental chestnut

and the nutting properties of both. Successful crosses so far have produced nuts on trees at an earlier age, and that are far more tasty, than the straight Oriental.

If a tree strain with these qualities could be produced consistently, a whole new chestnut variety would insure the successful continuation of this magnificent tree in the American countryside and forests. So far, a tree that meets all these criteria has not been produced, but Earl has several young crosses that look promising.

Douglas has given up trying to produce pure American chestnut trees. Sprouts from blight-riddled casualties respond to care and develop well to a certain age ...usually until the bark becomes furrowed and therefore a good place for the blight spores to develop into the lethal disease. The blight has inexorably strangled life from these struggling trees as they reach nut-bearing age.

SELECTION

In an attempt to overcome this problem, Earl invests a great deal of time and effort in the process of selection of growing hybrid breeding stock. He grows several hundred seedlings each year, picking the most vigorous to be planted in his chestnut plantation. If performance does not continue to be good, the young trees are cut out and replaced. Thus, the breeding stock remains to produce nuts of superior quality.

Another facet of the problem that Earl is working on is the control of the blight organism itself. He has experimented with spraying the blight-caused cankers with a mixture of Dithane Z-78, captan, and Benlate. With the help of a high-pressure spray gun (200 psi) he drenches the cankers with the solution.

The results look very promising. Many of the treated cankers are healing over.

MORTALITY

What is the mortality rate among the crossed hybrids? Some develop the disease, others so far have not. In his y ears of experimentation, even some of Douglas's Orientals have been found to become infected with the disease. Most of this strain that develop the blight cankers, however, produce a protective scab over the canker and the tree's growth continues.

Other attempts to prevent or limit the growth of blight-cankers are being researched by Dr. Richard Jaynes at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station at New Haven. He is using a hypovirulent strain of chestnut blight to inoculate the trees.

This strain from Europe is less virulent than the American strain, and allows the tree to build up a defense against the attack by the American blight. Earl obtained some of this hypovirulent strain from the federal government to inoculate some of his trees, but without much success so far.

NEEDS HELP

Through the years, Earl has put much of his own time and money into his chestnut project. He wishes, however, that public funds could be made more available to lend a helping hand. He n eeds the answers to some questions about the blight organism and genetic make-up of the American and the Oriental chestnut...answers available only from basic research conducted in sophisticated laboratories. He must go through mountains of red tape to get the hypovirulent strain of blight. Earl's efforts could be made easier by more cooperation on the part of public officials.

The 1978 season has been an excellent fruiting year for the hybrid chestnuts, so Earl has nuts as well as one-year seedlings for sale. If you are interested in participating in the development of a blight-resistant chestnut, you can write to:

Earl Douglas, Red Creek, N.Y. 13143. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Someday, somewhere, someone will find a tree that will duplicate the splendor and quality of the American chestnut. It will be able to grow and flourish and multiply in the forests from which it was driven so many years ago. It may be at the Douglas tree plantations... or it could be at your place.



Looking at a bumper crop of chestnuts are (left to right): Lance Conklin, NYFOA President, Robert Sand, and Earl Douglas.

How Much Fuel For The Fire?

ESF Study to Estimate Energy Potential of New York Forests

A more efficient use of New York's forest resources, especially in the area of energy production, could result from a study being conducted at the State University College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF). The study involves the development of a new method of measuring the amount of wood contained in ten of the state's most prominent tree species.

SEEKING ANSWERS

Members of the College's Applied Forestry Research Institute (AFRI), led by Senior Research Associate DOUGLAS B. MONTEITH, are seeking answers to three central questions concerning the state's forest resources through the study, funded for \$84,000 by the New York State Energy and Research Development Authority. "We hope first to find the total weight of wood fiber standing in New York forests and, secondly, how much grows each year," said Monteith. "Then we will estimate the amount of wood which could be used to produce energy."

To answer these questions, researchers will begin by weighing representative samples of ten selected forest species and computing weight tables. The tables will furnish weight information for the total tree (both wood and bark content from the stump to branches) and for its various components: bole (trunk) weight and the weight of the bole and various top diameters. Tables will be constructed for green wood as well as for seasoned wood.

SPECIES

The species in the study are sugar and red maples, hemlock, white pine, northern red oak, beech, white ash, spruce, aspen and yellow birch. Collectively they represent about 75 percent of wood volume growing on commercial land in New York

land in New York. The ESF researchers will also construct a growth model which, Monteith explained, will enable users to estimate forest biomass weights for specific geographic areas. Forest biomass figures represent the total weight, at a given time, of forest trees in an area.

WEIGHT TABLES

Using weight tables and growth model in conjunction with data detailing land capability, land use and forest inventory, Monteith and co-workers will be able to estimate both the gross and net energy production potential of New York's forests. A biomass atlas, to be included in the project report to NYSERDA, will provide information on the distribution of the forest biomass and the potential energy it can produce throughout the state.

INTEREST

"There is considerable interest in this project on the part of people in the energy field as well as in forest industries," Monteith commented. "A pound of dry wood has a relatively consistent BTU content when burned, irrespective of species and whether it is wood fiber, bark, tops or branches."

Currently, most of the bark, tops and branches are waste material, left in the forest to decompose after trees are harvested for traditional wood products such as lumber, paper and poles. This waste, said Monteith, represents approximately half a tree's weight.

ENERGY PRODUCED

Since wood chips can produce energy equal to a comparable weight of logs, Monteith and AFRI co-workers believe their use can substantially contribute to the state's energy needs. cont'd

HOW MUCH FUEL FOR THE FIRE - continued

"Preliminary calculations suggest that this material can supply perhaps 10 percent of the state's energy requirements," Monteith said, "Realistically, the figure may only be five percent overall, but in specific areas, such as rural communities where there are large areas of forested lands, the contribution could be, proportionately, much greater--enough to fuel a modest-sized power plant."

IMPLICATIONS

Beyond the five percent energy contribution, considerable social and business implications exist, said Monteith. Such a wood-burning facility could provide a community with an increased number of jobs and lower energy costs. In addition, using this waste material instead of letting it decompose, he said, will remove only a minor amount of nutrients from the forest, and will provide benefits to forest industries in the form of intensified and more efficient forest management practices as well as additional income to landowners and loggers.

POTENTIAL ENERGY

Although determining potential energy resources of New York's forests is the main objective of the study, the waste wood could be used to produce other marketable products. Wood chips can be used as agricultural mulch and to treat and purify sludge from sewage disposal plants. Wood chips used to treat sludge can then be used in composting or, without further processing, as fertilizer. They can even be burned as fuel since trapping organic matter from the sludge increases the chips' energy content.

OTHER USES

Other uses for wood chips include additives to domestic animal feed (wood fiber can provide the bulk cattle and other animal diets need), or in producing other things such as wood flour, methanol, and xylitol (used to make the new sugar-free products).

POTENTIAL BENEFITS

These potential benefits are more likely to become realities as a result of the successful development of the biomass weight tables, growth model and atlas proposed in ESF's AFRI study. "Accurate measurement capability is basic to any resource planning and utilization," Monteith concluded, "and at present, other than rule-of-thumb, no means exists for estimating the biomass content of individual trees and stands or its growth rate."

"This new yardstick," said Monteith, "will give business and government a way to measure, and consequently use, more of the resources of our forest land."

* * *





KICKBACK INJURY

KICKBACK occurs when the tip of the cutting bar on a chainsaw comes in contact with a stationary object - even a piece of brush, a log, or a branch protruding from the log you are cutting.

RESULT of kickback which is the sudden backward thrust of the chainsaw can often times be painful.

HERE, months after the "accident" which was KICKBACK is a sore and painful knee with chipped bone and the scar left from a ragged cut mended by eighteen stitches.

PREVENT KICKBACK INJURY by (1) controlling the saw with two hands, (2) using safety tip on guide bar, (3) using chain brake, and (4) keeping nose of guide bar from contacting objects.

by Dave Taber

NEW YORK'S FOREST PRACTICES -- A CHANGING SCENE by Julian Webb

New York State is at a crossroads regarding the direction the management of small forests will take in the future. If present trends continue it is foreseeable that a day will come very soon when there will be no state interest in this valuable resource.

Since the earliest days of forest conservation, New York has been a fore-runner in the wise use of its forests. Today the state is blessed with over 17 million acres of forest land of which 13.5 million acres are in small ownerships

In 1946 the state inaugurated the Forest Practice Act which made available through the Conservation Department professional forestry assistance to cooperating forest owners. This program was one of a voluntary nature in which the owners agreed to manage their lands by established forest conservation standards. Later federal participation developed into a Cooperative Forest Management Program which strengthened the efforts to manage these small forests for the benefit of all the people of the state. Since then these programs have met with a reasonable measure of success, and in many cases provide the only opportunity for forest conservation.

During recent years, however, there has been a deteriorating change in the state's efforts in this area. It has been caused primarily by budgetary reductions coupled with the implementation of recently passed environmental quality programs which were approved by the legislature without adequate support funding. The net result has been a reallocation of the available resources of men and equipment from such a program as Cooperative Forest Management into these newer environmental quality programs.

This unfortunate turn in the Environmental Conservation Department's efforts comes at a time when United States Forest Service studies show unprecedented opportunities for the management of New York's small forests. The need has always been there and the attitude of owners is right (over 80% indicate some kind of interest in the management of their forest according to the United States Forest Service study), yet the strength and direction of the Environmental Conservation Department effort appears to have changed. The continuation of this trend will lead eventually to a total neglect of the greatest share of the state's forest resources.

Members of the New York State Forest Owner's Association along with all forest owners should be alerted.



A WALK IN THE BERNESE FOREST

by Alan R. Knight
Public Information Officer
University of Rhode Island
College of Resource Development

Breath taking Alps, smiling host foresters, and warm, wonderful hospitality are the fond memories sixteen travelers still carry around with them, thanks to the 1977 NYFOA tour to Switzerland, Austria and Bavaria.

Departing for a two week, never-to-be-forgotten journey in May, 1977, this "international woods walk" began in medieval Berne, the cozy capital of Switzerland. After a free morning to calm down and shake jet lag, the group assembled for lunch and a briefing on Swiss forestry by a member of the Swiss forestry department. Almost imperceptibly the excitement began to build as Herr Fellenberg, a forester responsible for the "Old Guild Forests" of Berne escorted us from our hotel luncheon through the drizzle to the silent beech forests of the Bernese countryside.

"Old Guild forests"? you ask. So did we. Fellenberg describes it as a remnant of old times, a Napoleonic legacy. After the collapse of Napoleon's empire, officials of Berne had to re-allocate land somehow and, thinking forest land to be relatively worthless left it to the confederation of old craft guilds. Descendants of guild members still own those forests today. Thus in a rather quaint way, some fraction

(estimated by Fellenberg to be perhaps 5%) of Berne's citizens are corporate owners of tis forest resource. A rather novel approach by our standards, but intriguing, too. "Der Alte Guild" owns and manages 3500 hectares (about 8600 acres) in and around Berne, employing three "forest engineers", seven technical foresters, and 35 laborers. Through selective cutting of magnificent European Beech, fir and spruce, reforestation and marketing they apparently generate enough revenue to support all these employees, meet expenses, and donate profits enough for Old Guild sponsored libraries, concert halls, hospitals, and schools. Don't think that didn't set our Yankee minds to working!

Herr Fellenberg hiked us over hill and dale until we came back to the road. Our bus had circled around to meet us. As the group assembled by the bus, I noticed Herr Fellenberg walking the other way. Turning, he signalled for me to follow. Nestled in the woods, there was a charming log cabin. All it lacked was Hansel and Gretel. A quick turn of his key, an opened cabinet next to the tile stove, and a surprise wine party was launched. After a bit of wine and warm fellowship, we toasted our host and gave President Gene Farnsworth a few minutes to present a jug of New York

maple syrup. A marvelous beginning to a marvelous trip.

JACOB WYSSEN AND THE SKY CRANE FACTORY

Sounds like the 1960's movie, "Willie Wonka and the Chocolate factory." And it is just about as hard to believe. What could have been the dullest, deadliest day of the trip somehow turned into one of the greatest, most unforgettable of all.

After an afternoon bus trip from Berne and Herr Fellenberg's unexpected little happy hour, we were bussed to the Bernese Oberland, accompanied by the kilometer narration of our driver. An Englishman turned Swiss bus driver. He offered particularly insights into Swiss culture. An evening slide show on avalanche control both informed us and lulled us into readiness for a badly needed night's sleep. We were ready ourselves for a day with the Wyssen Manufacturing Company, way up in the mountains in the tiny village of Reichenbach.

First glimpse of the Wyssen factory gives some clue to its creator Jakob Wyssen, a smallish, animated man with twinkling eyes and Santa Claus cheeks, who explains the factory is hardly a factory at all "it should fit its surroundings." The office and workshops, the outlying warehouse and "garage" for model cable cars look for all the world like chalets that belong right there in the narrow mountain valley. If not for the sign growing on the hillside in shrubs, we might still be searching for the place.

Up and up he takes us, up into the spruce and fir forests above Reichenbach. Wyssen and his staff were demonstrating the operation of the operation of the Wyssen Sky Crane, his main product, one marketed personally by Mr. Wyssen world wide. Its action is simple. A cable connects one accessible spot to another.

A mid-point such as a steep mountain slope is visited by loggers who attach a cable to four logs. The cable, activated by a radio signal from the loggers, hoists the logs high in the air to the main cable. The hoisting winch, attached to this main cable, rolls up or down it, hauling the logs to a waiting truck or else they pile it. Thus Jakob Wyssen opens inaccessible terrain to selective logging.

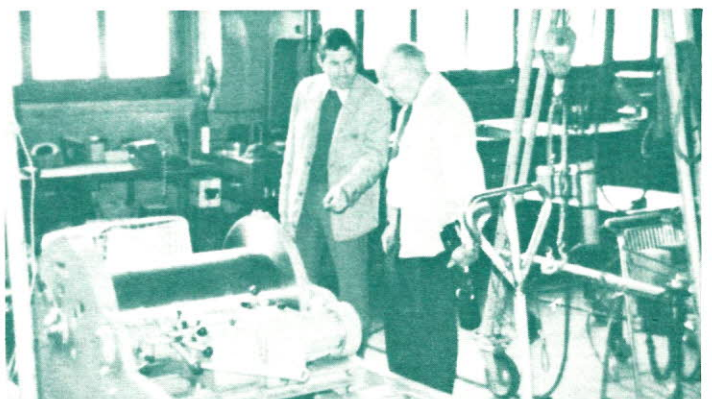
As if not to be outdone by our Berne hosts, Herr Wyssen concluded a factory tour with a "little luncheon" at a neighboring gasthaus. Little luncheon, indeed. I have never had such a meal before or since. Rahmschnitzel, tempting German-Swiss style vegetables, wine, beer, seconds, thirds, desserts, more and more. Wonderful! We were not ready to leave Reichenbach. But then, Herr Wyssen wasn't ready to let us go. Back to the chalet-housed factory where Jakob Wyssen unveils a small chapel, a home made, feature length nature movie starring Wyssen Sky Cranes and creatures of the world's forests. Somehow, it was actually a religious movie, his interconnection of born-again Christianity, sky cranes, and wild creatures... and rather well done, at that.

Normally turned off by such auspicious revivalism I found myself glowing inside from the incredible Swiss food, the dumb luck of having arranged for this amazing day, and the irrepressible cable car salesman.

Probably nothing could top this day's experience, we all thought. Yet each day had its unexpected excitement.

#

(next article: Lucerne, Garmisch, and Innsbruck. A contrast of national styles.)





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COVER PHOTO

Jim Stock, his wife Linda and son Alex think about the holidays as they enjoy the heat from the fire on a cold night. The Stock's two story log house is located in an evergreen forest on a hilltop near Camillus.



Mal Campbell



BECAUSE: Christmas is just
around the corner

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