

SNOQUALMIE VALLEY

\$5.00

# HISTORY MAGAZINE

A Publication of the Snoqualmie Valley Historical Museum



## Remembering World War I

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## SNOQUALMIE VALLEY HISTORY MAGAZINE

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*Cover: This image was the recruiting poster for the Spruce Production Division. You can find it and other photographs and images at <https://oregondigital.org/sets/gwilliams>*



## FROM THE EDITOR

World War I dominates the pages of this issue of the History Magazine, triggered by the observance of the 100<sup>th</sup> year since the signing of the armistice ending that war - November 11, 2018.

The pages are packed from front to back with photos and other material, some of it appearing in print for the first time. My own “involvement” in WWI, related to me by my mother is that I, then a six-month old baby, was held aloft by my father to see the 1919 ticker tape parade in New York City honoring General John J. Pershing; the commander of the American Expeditionary Force in Europe. The photo above of the “Doughboys” - nickname for Yankee soldiers – is of troops in Paris.

**If you have any memorabilia of either World War I or World War II, we invite you to bring it to the Museum. If you choose not to donate it, we will scan it for you while you wait. Our access committee will determine if it is suitable for inclusion in our inventory and possible future use in print or on display.**

Donations from many families and literally countless hours of research are the basis of this 2017 publication that includes dozens of photos, other articles and the totally fascinating cover image and mid-twentieth century map.

Expecting to have this in the hands of our valued members so near the end of this year provides the opportunity to offer all of you from all of us the happiest of Happy New Years!

*Gloria McNeely*



FALL 2017

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## KING COUNTY, 1940

This 1940 view of King County was printed in a small brochure that was recently donated to the museum. The back side of the map listed the toll rates being charged on the brand new Mercer Island floating bridge. Once the East Side was accessible, the strawberry fields in Bellevue and the peat moss farms in Redmond were doomed. The suburbs were on the way.



# MILL FIRE

## Thirty Years of Service – The Weyerhaeuser Plywood Plant in the mill at Snoqualmie Falls

It was August 13, 1959. Ed and Charlotte Paul Groshell (from 1949 to mid-1962 the co-owners-publishers of the *Snoqualmie Valley Record*) were very proud. They had just published the largest ever edition – a ten section behemoth – to honor the opening of the new Weyerhaeuser plywood plant at the Snoqualmie Falls Branch, just across the river from the town of Snoqualmie, Washington.

Ed writes in his editorial: “Don’t wrap the garbage in this edition – ten years from now it will be a collector’s item, and it’s an issue your kids might enjoy as time goes on.” Well, I am looking at the copy I purchased at age 19, and the amount of Valley history packed in to the 40 pages of the “Souvenir” edition has provided background and detail for many of the articles I have written.

Second only in impact on our Valley to the opening of the original Snoqualmie Falls Lumber Company mill (re-named Weyerhaeuser in 1948) on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 1917, the opening of the plywood plant signaled the “fact,” very true at the time, that Weyerhaeuser was in the Snoqualmie Valley to stay and willing to invest in their infrastructure here, surrounded by some 100,000 acres of timber that Weyerhaeuser had managed on a sustained yield basis since 1925.

When Weyerhaeuser cut their first logs in 1917 (Douglas fir ship’s timbers and Sitka spruce airplane stock) they became the largest employer in the history of the Snoqualmie Valley and multiple generations were fed and housed and clothed by working in the mill and woods and in the local infrastructure needed to provide, at peak employment, for over 1200 workers and their families. So, the addition of a state-of-the-art plywood plant was very encouraging and spoke of at least another generation of opportunity.

The huge ‘U’ shaped building, built over the footprint of Mill 2 (dismantled in 1960/61) covered 120,000 Square feet of land, carefully prepared to carry the weight of the new physical plant and undergirded by over 1,000 pilings. Construction began on December 8, 1958, employed 205 men at peak and was completed in six months and nine days. Timbers and lumber for the new plant came from Snoqualmie Mill 1, with long laminated beams from Weyerhaeuser’s Longview plant and plywood from three other northwest Weyerhaeuser facilities.

Harry E. Morgan Jr. (in tie on left), branch manager, was pleased to announce that the new plywood plant would increase his employees from 650 persons to 775. More important for the Valley, the region and local families, the yearly payroll would increase from \$3,500,000 to \$4,250,000.





Weyerhaeuser Snoqualmie - Plywood Plant designed in a horseshoe shape, replaced Mill 2 in 1959 - Harold Keller Photo



On August 13, 1959, the new plant was open for tours to Weyerhaeuser Snoqualmie Operations employees and families and on Friday, August 14, the entire community was invited to view the new facility, with busses routed to and from the Snoqualmie Falls YMCA (then the largest YMCA east of Seattle) located in the heart of the mill town.

Although most of the west coast Weyerhaeuser plywood plants focused on Douglas fir, this plant would primarily use Western hemlock and focus on 3/8 inch and 5/16 inch exterior plywood.

For the next thirty years, the Snoqualmie Falls plywood plant provided financial security for local families and material for the growing economy. As the market changed, and waferboard and oriented-strand board panels began to edge out the thinner material produced at Snoqualmie, the decision had just been made to purchase new machinery to upgrade the plant to produce 3/4 inch plywood.

And then, on Sunday February 5<sup>th</sup>, during the unusually cold winter of 1989, a fire broke out about 7pm, as the plywood plant was re-starting after a short stoppage due to the cold weather. The sprinkler system did not kick-in (blamed on frozen pipes) and the nearest fire hydrants were also frozen.

Snoqualmie Fire Chief Don Moller noted that nearly 80 Valley firefighters responded and the one useable remote hydrant allowed them to save the Block Saw Building and also protect an oil tank storage shed. My family and I remember watching the fire from Tokul Road and wondering how far it might spread.

Frustrated firemen and mill workers and their families could only stand by and watch the \$2,000,000 plant and \$600,000 worth of finished plywood burn. All workers escaped the fire, but three employee automobiles, kept inside because of the cold – were consumed by the fire.

Approximately 130 workers were left without jobs, just as Weyerhaeuser planned (on March 1 of the same year), to shut down and dismantle the original mill 1 bandsaw and auxiliary equipment leaving another 60 workers without jobs.

Due to bleak market conditions, the decision





*4X8 Peeled Sheets Of Wood Were Glued Together And Pressed In This Machine – Harold Keller Photo*

**February 5, 1989, \$2 Million in physical plant and 100+ jobs – gone– Ron Guy Photo**



by Weyerhaeuser for decades and many were from families who had worked at Weyerhaeuser for three generations. Based on seniority, a few would find work in the remaining portions of the Snoqualmie mill or in other Weyerhaeuser facilities – but most would not.

Valley School District 410 superintendent, Dr. Rich McCullough, immediately announced that the district could provide free or reduced-price school lunches and free counseling, without the family required to be on welfare to qualify.

By February 15<sup>th</sup>, Weyerhaeuser human resources manager, Jeanne Hansen (also Snoqualmie's mayor at the time) and plywood plant manager Joe Lavalee, were able to announce a special "emergency supplement" for laid-off workers of approximately two months earnings; preferential hiring considerations at other Weyerhaeuser facilities; severance pay (based on length of service) for those not able to find work elsewhere within Weyerhaeuser; outplacement training and support and medical benefits through April of 1989.


On the lighter side: Film footage from the plywood plant fire was used to depict the burning of the fictional lumber mill on the television series *Twin Peaks* (Most of this series was filmed in the Snoqualmie Valley). Also, when the 1917 built Mill 1 was dismantled, the actual roof of the facility (that portion covering the 11-foot bandsaw) was provided by Weyerhaeuser to the City of Snoqualmie to cover the big Douglas fir log now on exhibit in downtown Snoqualmie.

Although the big log slicing bandsaw was removed, the rest of the lumber mill continued to operate for fourteen years, with the log sawing operation happening at the Weyerhaeuser White River facility in Enumclaw and the green lumber trucked up SR-18 to be run through the finishing and shipping processes in the Snoqualmie mill. This operation continued until 2003 when the Weyerhaeuser mill finally closed down, and the huge treefarm was sold.

Dave Battey



# ARTIFACTS

  
 "WITH THE COLORS"  
 Somewhere in France  
 5/22/18  
 My dear P.W.V.:-  
 Some France, the  
 much too far from the firing line to suit.  
 Just wanted to tell  
 you that I'm within a very few miles  
 of Ben and Kenneth - and that within  
 a week there'll be one grand reunion,  
 with much wine flowing.  
 We're here on the  
 second largest job now going up in this  
 country, and believe me, that means  
 and all - all fighting the winning

DEPARTMENT  
 RD FOR  
 BUSINESS  
 ST. LOUIS, MO.  
 NOV 5  
 5-PM  
 PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE  
 460/84  
 Otto Herman Mueller  
 North Bend  
 we

AMERICAN  
 Y.M.C.A.  
 ON ACTIVE SERVICE  
 WITH THE AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE  
 On the Rhine  
 Dear Webb,  
 Just a line to wish  
 you the Season's Greetings and  
 let you know that things are  
 well with me - Am with the  
 Army of Occupation and  
 have seen some real Active  
 Service the last few months.  
 Best regards to old friends.  
 Yours,  
 [Signature]

## World War I Artifacts from the Collection

The Snoqualmie Valley Historical Museum collection contains about a hundred artifacts directly related to World War I, and what follows is a sample of those objects largely organized by theme. Some items were omitted because they don't show up well, for instance, two wax cylinders that play "It's Time for Every Boy to Be a Soldier," and "America, Here's My Boy," popular tunes of the era. It may be telling that we have several different donations of shrapnel. Imagining them slicing through the air does communicate something about the terrors of the Western Front. We didn't have space here for letters of condolence, discharge papers, poems or the program for the 1919 dinner honoring men who had returned to the Snoqualmie Valley. With regret, we left out additional photos of men in uniform because their names are not known, and we are not certain they were local. The important point, however, is that all of these artifacts were actually present as The Great War raged on.

Local Board for \_\_\_\_\_ Local Board No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 NOTICE OF CLASSIFICATION  

I	II	III	IV	V

 Otto Herman Mueller Order No. 2476 Serial No. 157 has been classified by the Local Board on appeal on original claim in the classes under which letters are placed on the above schedule, and on the grounds indicated by such letters (see Form 1001-A for key to meaning of letters). This entitles him to a place in Class IV and he has been so recorded on the Classification List of this Local Board. Appeals may be taken from classification by a Local Board, within five days from the date of this notice, by any person who filed a claim with this Local Board. Appeals may be taken from classification by a District Board within five days from the date of this notice only in certain cases specified in section 103 of Selective Service Regulations. A claim of classification with the District go to the office of the Local Board and with the registrant's questionnaire.  
 Nov. 5 - 1918  
 (Date.)  
 FORM 1005-PMGO. (See Sec. 103, S. S. R.)



OFFICIAL  
 DEFENSE SAVINGS  
 MINUTE MAN  
 SURNAME Kelako, CHRISTIAN  
 CITY OR TOWN North Bend  
 HOME ADDRESS North Bend  
 BUSINESS ADDRESS  
 LIBERTY LOAN RECORD  

SUBSCRIBED	ANTICIPATED
1ST LOAN	
2ND LOAN	\$100
3RD LOAN	\$100

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR KNITTING

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 THE SEATTLE CHAPTER  
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 Seattle



## Red Cross Christmas

merriest Christmas the  
 new is almost here. But  
 of peace and freedom  
 is one note of seriousness that  
 America must not forget - there is  
 misery and distress and sickness all  
 over the world. Relief must be given.  
 The work of the Red Cross MUST go on.  
 And to carry on, the Red Cross MUST  
 have the support of you





# LOCALS WHO SERVED



**Ada Allan**



**George Scheuchzer**



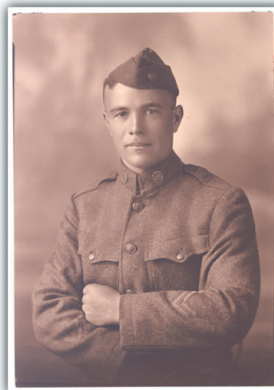
**Cecil and Loy Carlin**



**Ray Hillyer**



**Charles Cowan**



**Harold Downing Gardiner**



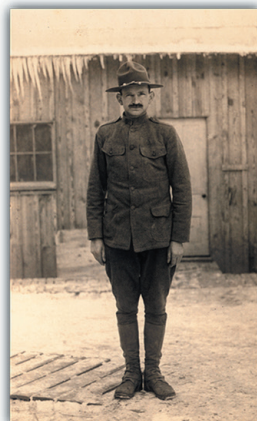
**William Kenneth Gardiner**



**Scotty Carlin**



**Harold Elmo O'Neal**



**Jim Mattell**



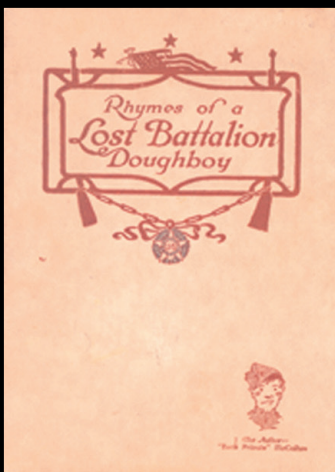
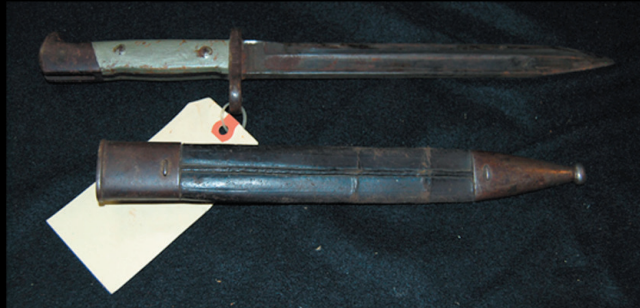
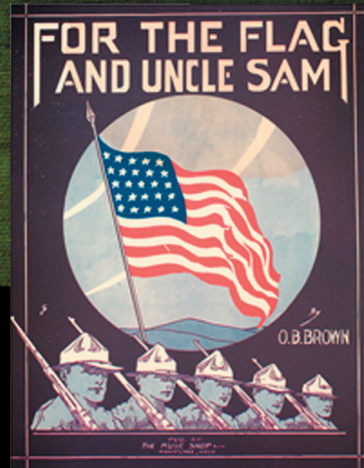
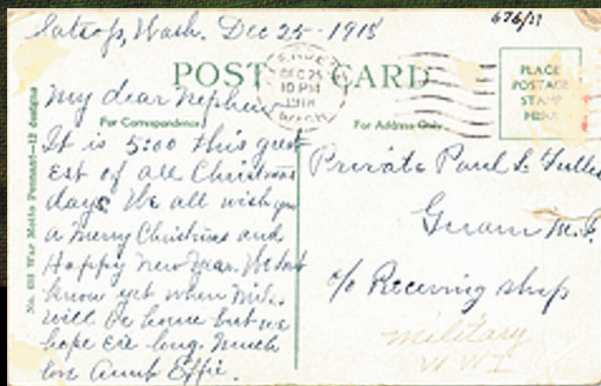
**Jesse Harris**



**Albert Emery**







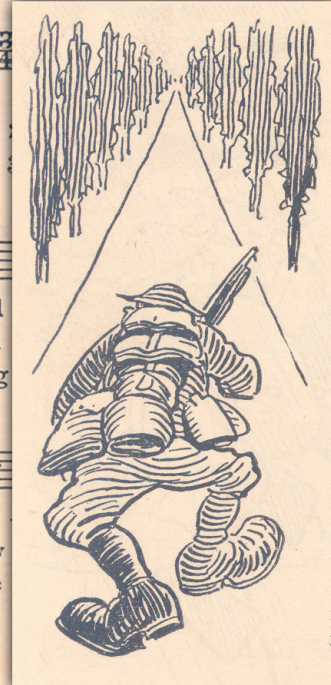
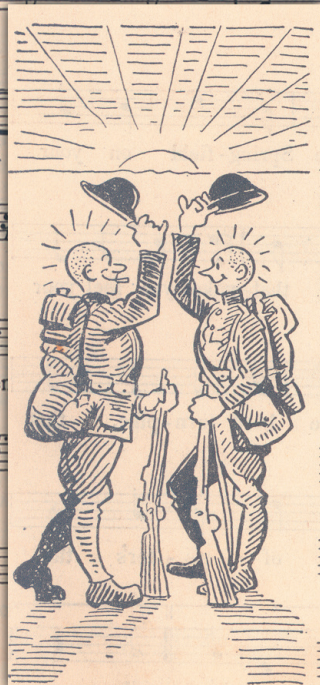
# La Marseillaise

The French National Anthem

Words and Music by  
ROUGET DE L'ISLE

# God Save the King

The British National Anthem



## Pack Up Your Troubles In Your Old Kit Bag And Smile, Smile, Smile

GEORGE ASAF

FELIX POWELL

### REFRAIN

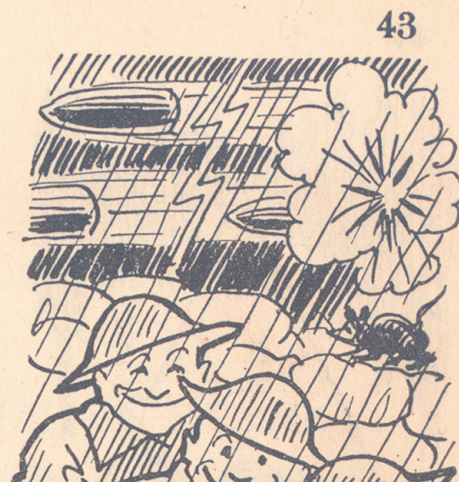
*mp 2d time f*



Pack up your trou-bles in your old kit - bag, And



smile, smile, smile, — While you've a lu - ci - fer to



43

# La Brabançonne

The Belgian National Anthem

W. Burgert  
76-M.G.

## ARMY SONG BOOK

U. S.

## THE BOY ALLIES WITH THE COSSACKS.

### CHAPTER I.

#### FLYING.

"WHAT's that below, Hal?"

The speaker was Chester Crawford, an American lad of some 16 years.

Hal Paine allowed his eyes to turn from the steering wheel and glanced over the side of the flying aeroplane.

"I don't see anything," he replied, after a careful scrutiny below.

"Neither do I, now," said Chester, straining his eyes.

At this moment the third occupant of the machine made his presence known.

"Woof! Woof!" he exclaimed.

The third speaker was Marquis, a dog.

"Woof! Woof!" he barked again.

Hal, with a quick move, slackened the speed of the aeroplane, and let it glide gently closer to the earth.

3

4

### THE BOY ALLIES

"Must be something wrong," he confided to Chester, "or Marquis wouldn't be barking like that."

Both lads peered into the darkness that engulfed them on all sides. As far as the eye could penetrate there was nothing but blackness, solid, intense.

"Let's go a little lower, Hal," whispered Chester.

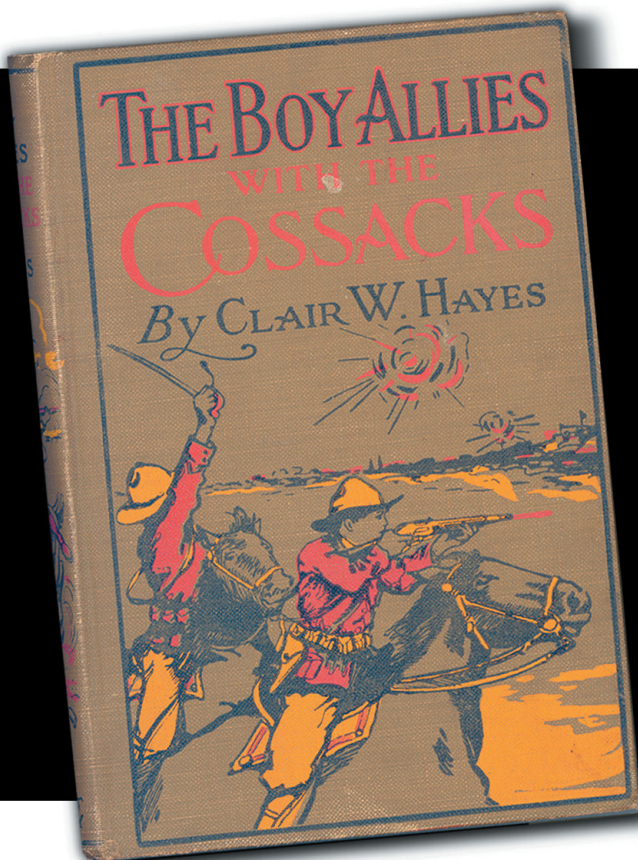
Under Hal's firm hand the aeroplane came down gently, until at last it was soaring close to the tree-tops. And now, suddenly, both lads made out the cause of Marquis's uneasiness.

Beneath them were thousands upon thousands of armed men. To the north, to the south, and to the east and west the dense mass of humanity stretched out. Hal and Chester, flying close to the earth, at last could make out moving forms below them.

Suddenly it became light. Not broad daylight, but the darkness gave way enough for the lads to distinguish what lay below them. The dawn of another day was breaking.

At the same instant that the lads made out the huge mass of humanity upon the ground their presence in the air was discovered. There came the sound of a single shot and the whiz of a bullet, as it sped close to Hal's ear.

With a quick movement the lad sent the plane soaring high in the air once more. So sudden was the movement that Chester, caught unprepared, lost his balance, and saved himself from tumbling to the ground only by clutching the side of the ma-

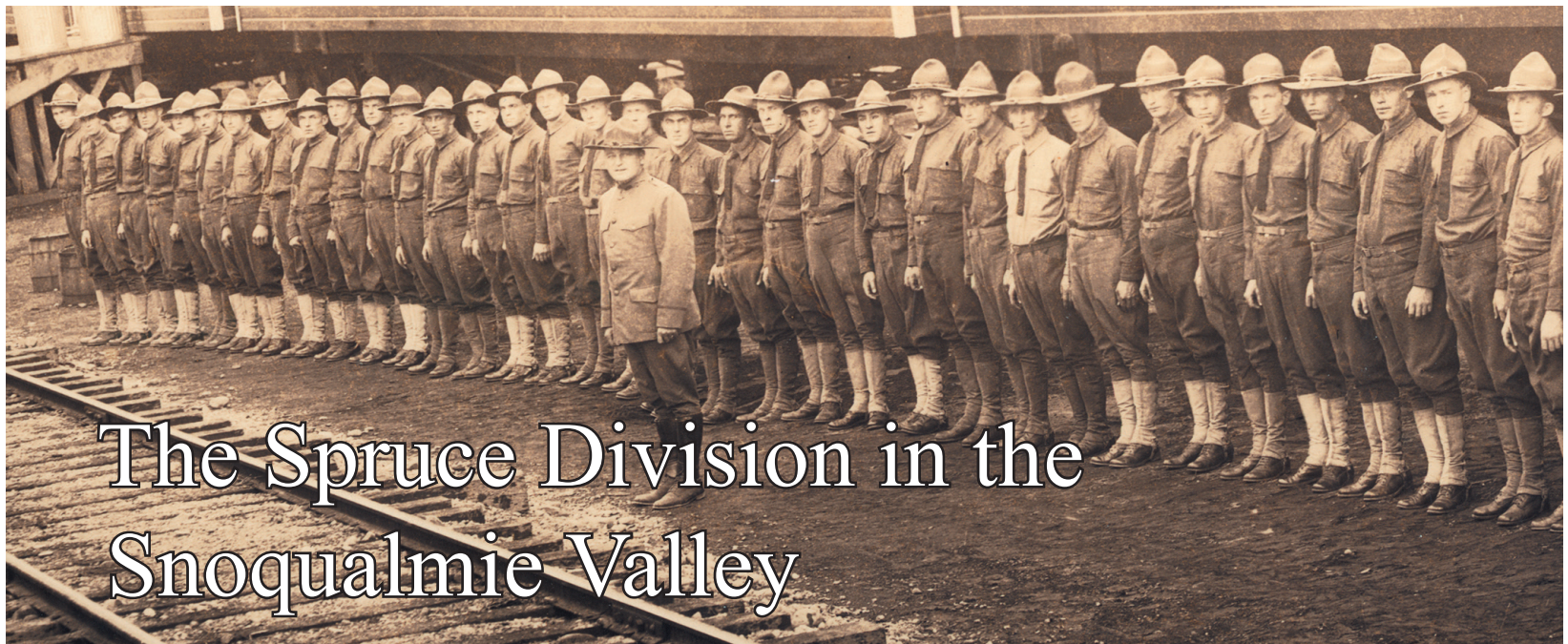


Even before the United States entered World War I, juvenile fiction began to appear inviting young readers to imagine that they were part of this great event.

*The Boy Allies with the Cossacks* was published in 1915, and at least two Snoqualmie Valley boys owned the worn copy that the museum has seen.

The book focuses on the splendid deeds of two teenage boys and a dog, but the author was allowed one chapter that captured the dark mood of the war.

Many titles in both the army and navy series are still in print.



The first military invasion of the First World War took place at 7 p.m. on August 1, 1914, when a German cavalry unit slipped across the Luxembourg border to take possession of a key railroad center named Trois Vierges. During the tense days that followed Germany, France, Belgium, Britain, Austria-Hungary and Russia went to war. Others rushed to declare their neutrality: On August 1, Italy, Sweden, Denmark and Norway; on August 3, Switzerland; and on August 4, the United States. Gradually a dozen more countries were drawn into the conflict, and millions of soldiers and civilians had died before the United States entered the war on April 6, 1917.

The United States was not psychologically prepared to join a great war. President Woodrow Wilson was determined not to be dragged in, and American public opinion steadfastly favored peace. The administration scrupulously avoided involvement, even in the face of blatant German provocations, and, in November of 1916, when Wilson narrowly won reelection, his campaign buttons proclaimed “He Has Kept Us Out of War,” and “War In Europe – Peace In America – God Bless Wilson.”

The U.S. military was hardly ready for war. Army strength was well under 100,000, whereas more than a million American soldiers would eventually be needed in Europe. A military draft was not even approved by Congress until May of 1917. America’s small professional army had spent much of 1916 unsuccessfully chasing Pancho Villa around northern Mexico following his raid on a New Mexico armory, and just two months before the declaration of war, Wilson’s most trusted army commander died unexpectedly. The president appointed General John J. Pershing commander of the proposed American Expeditionary Force to Europe after only brief consultations.

General Pershing was not quite ready for war either. He was eager to get the 14,000 soldiers he already had into the war, and he had put in place measures to raise a larger army, but he didn’t want to leave for Europe until he knew the home front would support his forces. He understood that his soldiers would have to start the war with vehicles, tanks and airplanes provided by French and British allies, but U.S. industrial production was essential to building a great



General John J. Pershing



Colonel Brice Disque



army. From the start Pershing saw the growing American labor movement as a threat to his success. Specifically, in 1916, Congress had only averted a crippling national railroad shutdown by legislating the eight-hour day for railroad workers, and Pershing understood that labor leaders were working to extend that victory to other industries.

In June of 1917, labor made a move in the Pacific Northwest. Just two weeks before Pershing's scheduled departure for France, the most radical of the labor groups, the International Workers of the World (IWW), launched a strike to shut down the region's woods and lumber mills. The strike threatened vital supplies of Sitka spruce for airplane construction and fir for ship-building. Even worse, in Pershing's mind, was the idea that the IWW was an unpatriotic, anti-war organization that would use sabotage and violence to achieve its ends. Pershing therefore made the extraordinary request that a military officer be vested with authority to take full control of the logging industry in Washington and Oregon. Wilson agreed.

In some ways Colonel Brice Disque was an odd choice for this job. He admittedly knew nothing about the Pacific Northwest, the logging industry or the labor issues of the day. He had recently abandoned an earlier military career, and on the day that the U.S. entered the war, he was the director of a Michigan state prison. Having reenlisted, he joined General Pershing's staff and was preparing to go to France. Once given his assignment, however, he seems to have had little doubt that he would be a successful lumber czar.

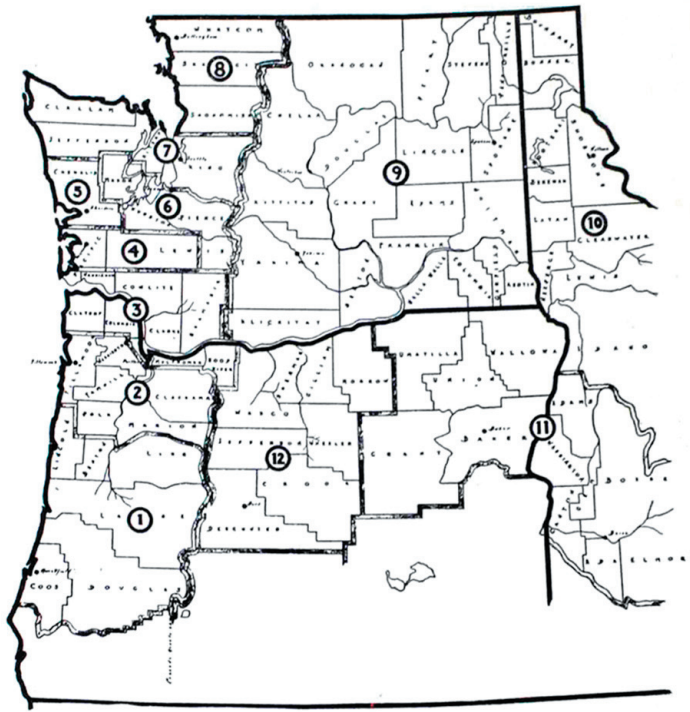
In the fall of 1917, Colonel Disque took a quick course on labor problems in the Pacific Northwest. He visited Portland in October, then returned East to confer with Samuel Gompers, the President of the American Federation of Labor (AFL), the leading labor organization in the country. Gompers was eager to work with the army against the IWW because its radicalism was giving unions in general a bad name, and because the AFL was competing with the IWW for the allegiance of the powerful International Shingle Weavers' Union, the first Pacific Northwest lumber union. Gompers and Disque formed an alliance of convenience.

The Pacific Northwest lumber industry was in its usual unsteady state. The region was covered with timber, and lumbermen were competing furiously for land, logging rights, workers and markets. The nation's largest lumber company, Weyerhaeuser, had moved into the region at the turn of the century and was beginning to assert its strength, but small, independent operators relentlessly pushed surplus lumber onto the market, leading to weak prices. Domestic and foreign demand was unpredictable. Wages were higher in the Pacific Northwest than in other regions, but now labor wanted ten hours' pay for eight hours' work. In November of 1916 a shootout in Everett between union men and a Snohomish County sheriff backed by "citizen deputies" had left sixteen dead. Governor Ernest Lister had called out the militia to calm tensions. Now the country was at war.

Lumber executives in Washington and Oregon were not sure what Colonel Disque would make of their situation, but on November 16, 1917, they got their answer. Colonel Disque decided to use his wartime authority to impose labor peace and increase industrial output. He did this by creating a Spruce Production Division to put soldiers to work in the woods and mills, and by imposing a government-run union called the Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen on both workers and management in the Pacific Northwest. He announced he would be the head of both organizations.

Pacific Northwest lumbermen were eager to figure out how this would work, and two Snoqualmie Valley executives began to search for details. One was George Long, president of the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company, then a partner in the newly created Snoqualmie Falls Lumber Company. Long was the single most important business figure in the industry, so he had been named to Colonel Disque's advisory council, and he was in a position to know what might happen ahead of public announcements. The other local lumberman was R. W. Vinnedge of the North Bend Lumber Company, a typical small, family-run company.

R. W. Vinnedge was in the East as Colonel Disque rolled out his plans. Mr. Vinnedge wanted to know whether lumbermen would be sworn in as military officers, but on November 27, 1917, he wrote to George Long with the answer to that, and all other, questions: "I looked into the matter of Spruce commissions and find that Colonel Disque is closed with authority to take any steps he may deem necessary." Colonel Disque did not want lumbermen



GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRICTING SYSTEM  
of the Loyal Legion of Loggers  
and Lumbermen



directing soldiers, he wanted soldiers directing logging camps. Long seemed unconcerned. With his eye on the main chance, he simply observed, "... the mills are going to be kept busy getting out airplane fir and ship building material."

The mills needed help, however, so they had to cooperate with Colonel Disque. Loggers and millworkers had always been restless. The woods were wet, cold and dangerous, and mill work was physically demanding and also dangerous. Logging camps moved often, usually further and further from the mill, and often little attention was paid to sanitation or living quarters. Single men were free to drift from camp to camp. The labor climate was unsettling, and many younger loggers had enlisted, or been drafted, or moved on to safer, better paying jobs in other industries. None of this was good for the war effort or lumber industry profits, so the lumbermen and Colonel Disque agreed to a package of sweeping labor reforms wrapped in service flags, Liberty Loans and Fourth of July parades. Colonel Disque announced his program.

- The eight-hour day during and after the war
- Committees of workers and managers in every mill and camp to sort out local questions
- "A general committee of employers and employees to be selected by Colonel Brice P. Disque" to act on general questions
- A list of "regulations to govern labor conditions throughout the industry," including uniform hourly wage rates for every mill and woods job, housing and sanitation standards and the establishment of reading rooms and organized recreational activities in every camp, for both soldiers and civilian workers.

Finally, lumber executives had to, "... request that Colonel Disque ... act as sole arbiter and agree to abide by his decisions on all labor questions that may arise during the continuance of the war."

Colonel Disque began to take action. He established headquarters in the Yeon Building in Portland, and on November 26, 1917, began recruiting prospective loggers and mill workers from within army units already established. Men from all over the country responded, and on December 4, the first 5,000 reported to the division's base at Fort Vancouver, where, Disque later wrote, "... they were taught the rudiments of drill, some discipline, sanitation and patriotism..." He expected the result would be, "... an immediate increase in production and the elimination of sedition, sabotage and unrest of labor in camps and mills."

Disque divided his territory into seven districts in Western Washington and Oregon, later expanding into Eastern Washington, Idaho and parts of Montana, even though those areas produced no usable timber. He began to purchase logging and railroad machinery. He approved plans to build a huge spruce sawmill in Vancouver and another on the Olympic Peninsula. He prepared to build what turned out to be thirteen railroad spurs. He envisioned a force of 30,000 soldiers and 70,000 members of the Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen. He launched a medical corps and an intelligence corps. All of his communications were signed, "By order of Colonel Disque."

Finally, on December 22, 1917, eight months after the America declaration of war, Colonel Disque sent units into the field to begin producing wood for the war effort. One of two units deployed that first day was the 33<sup>rd</sup> Spruce Squadron, which was sent to assist the operations of the Cherry Valley Logging Company in Stillwater, Washington, just north of Carnation in the Snoqualmie Valley.

The squadron was commanded by Captain Charles A. Turner. Turner was from nearby Everett, but he was not a logger or lumberman. He was 39 years old, and had lived on Rucker Avenue next door to the mayor of Everett and future governor, Roland Hartley. Turner was well educated. He was working as an inspector for the U.S. Immigration Service when war was declared, and would become an Everett public safety commissioner and then a lawyer after the war. He clearly understood his orders – to increase the production of Sitka spruce and to suppress labor agitation. He was a punctilious administrator.

Captain Turner set up a regional headquarters in Stillwater. His local detachments worked in Cherry Valley Timber Company Camps 1 and 3, but he also sent detachments to the Sultan Railway and Timber Company, the Campbell Lumber Company in Woodinville and the Snohomish River Boom Company and Ebey Logging Company, both in Marysville. He soon received a medical detachment to serve his somewhat remote locations.

The squadron also had to find ways to connect with the local community. Capt. Turner felt it was his job to promote patriotism whenever possible, especially as it was expressed through war bond drives and help for the Red Cross. On February 18, 1918, Tolt School Superintendent Belle Spencer wrote to Capt. Turner:

**We have been trying rather unsuccessfully to interest our pupils in the thrift and war savings stamps campaign, and it has occurred to us that nothing would so fill them with enthusiasm as to have a soldier talk to an assembly of our school children [about] how they can help win the war. Would it be possible for you or some other soldier you might choose to do this?**

The captain obliged. Having similar difficulty inspiring his own troops, he devoted enormous energy to the Second Liberty Loan drive.

Captain Turner was also alert to local trouble. On February 9, 1918, he wrote to headquarters in Portland about a "camp of the IWW variety" a short distance from Stillwater. He felt agitators in the camp might be responsible for the fact that about thirty local men had refused to join the Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen. There were reports that logging equipment had been tampered with. Capt. Turner requested twenty 45 caliber pistols and 2000 rounds of ammunition. In July he filed a long report about the risks posed by "bootleggers and dive-keepers" in Everett.

Managing the enlisted men was challenging as well. They were young, mostly between 21 and 32 years old. Many were single, and, like Capt. Turner, many had not yet found their life's work. Few had any logging experience. They got into trouble, and the squadron files are full of scrupulous records of hearings concerning minor offences. Discipline was a challenge for new, young soldiers, especially when they were working side by side with civilian



**Private James M. Elverud**

loggers. Colonel Disque had expected men in the Spruce Production Division to wear their uniforms while working in the woods and mills, but the men didn't follow through, so eventually a compromise was reached: The soldiers wore their hats. Capt. Turner's staff struggled to keep enough socks on hand.

Logging was dangerous even for experienced loggers, and the 33<sup>rd</sup> Squadron inevitably experienced accidents. On February 22, 1918, Private James M. Elverud was crushed by a falling tree at Stillwater. He was 22 years old, one of five children of a Norwegian immigrant farmer living in Circle, Montana, where he is buried. On May 1, Carl Flaig, age, 23, was killed, also at Stillwater. His body was sent to his family in Adams County, Washington. The paperwork states explicitly that these men died in the line of duty, and they are counted as casualties of World War I.

The purpose of deploying the 33<sup>rd</sup> Squadron to Stillwater was to bring labor peace and produce lumber for the war effort. The largest stands of Sitka spruce were located on the Olympic Peninsula and in Lincoln County, Oregon. There were supposedly pockets growing in microclimates in the Cascade Mountains as well, but the Cherry Valley Timber Company did not have much luck finding them. The production report for the week of July 27, 1918, was typical:

Fir	872,080 BF
Cedar	561,790 BF
Hemlock	233,960 BF
Spruce	31,660 BF

Spruce production amounted to just under 2% of the week's output, and, typically, much of the spruce brought out of the woods was not of airplane grade. Results were similar across the Cascade foothills. Captain Turner viewed this as a complete failure, but he seemed to overlook the fact that the fir also contributed to the war effort through shipbuilding.

On January 9, 1918, the Spruce Production Division deployed more soldiers to the Snoqualmie Valley. The 37<sup>th</sup> Spruce Squadron was based in the new mill town of Snoqualmie Falls, and by June the unit included 126 soldiers. Most of these men worked for the Snoqualmie Falls Lumber Company, but the squadron eventually sent men to support the operations of the North Bend Lumber Company at Edgewick, and, briefly, to the Northwest Lumber Company camp in Halmar, in the Raging River basin upstream from Preston.

The 37<sup>th</sup> Squadron was commanded by Captain Gaylord Eckles, age 38, from Helena, Montana. Like Captain Turner at Stillwater, Eckles was not a professional soldier. In 1900 he listed himself as a "level man on survey," in 1902 as a surveyor, and then in 1907 as a civil engineer. After the war he would change direction and spend the rest of his long life as an insurance agent. He dutifully filed the required reports to headquarters in Portland, but he seems to have been less absorbed in administrative matters than Captain Turner.

The 37<sup>th</sup> Squadron included men from as far away as New Hampshire, Ohio and Maryland, but most were from the Far West – Idaho, Utah, California, Oregon and Washington. More listed themselves as farmers than any other profession. Some had experience that might have been useful in Snoqualmie Falls – machinist, "railroad man," carpenter – but only a few registered as "logger" or "woodsman." The ranks included a barber, a plumber, a cooper, a fisherman and two chauffeurs. W.W. Warren, the manager of the Snoqualmie Falls mill, wrote to George Long about his frustrations:

**I explained to Maj. Stearns [in Portland] the nature of our logging and emphasized the fact that we needed men experienced in falling and bucking big timber. Some of these men are from Montana and some from further east and some have really not been in the woods at all.**

Major Stearns sent his regrets.

The furlough and transfer requests of the 37<sup>th</sup> reveal some of what was on the soldiers' minds. Pvt. Czar Rudy was denied a furlough to help his family with annual haying, but Pvt. Louis Mattson was allowed leave to help an older uncle with the same chore. Pvt. Carl Wrensted left to help his family with plowing. Pvt. Charles Mayer was allowed to visit Olympia to get married. Pvt. Adolph Sehmel went to Puyallup for dental work. Pvt. John Buskala visited



Private Mark Petritz

Cathlamet to sort out a mortgage problem, and Pvt. Erick Lund wanted to go to Richmond, California, to attend to “an important business matter.” Local men just wanted to visit their homes. These sorts of requests show just how far removed the Spruce Division soldiers were from the battlefields of France.

Captain Eckles spent his share of time sorting out problems with the men. His staff duly listed the infractions: AWOL, disobeyed orders, drunk and disorderly, escaped confinement, gambling, did not extinguish lights, failed to follow orders. Eckles looked for ways to help his men, however, so, for instance, when Pvt. John Johansen Ulvend applied for U.S. citizenship in 1918, Eckles filed an affidavit in support. He also seemed to have less trouble getting the men to contribute to the Red Cross.

The woods and the mill took a toll in the upper Snoqualmie Valley, as they did in Stillwater. Pvt. Robert Davis was allowed to return to Commerce, Oklahoma, following an injury in the mill at Snoqualmie Falls, and Pvt. Ben Laws went home to Renton to recuperate after being struck by a choker. Pvt. Czar Rudy sustained a serious scalp wound in the woods. These were typical woods injuries.

Three members of the 37<sup>th</sup> Squadron died in the Upper Valley. On April 1, 1918, Pvt. Ben Mattson of Maygar, Oregon, age 24, was killed at Camp A when he was hit on head by a falling tree. A young, single man, his estate consisted of \$524.40, a gold watch, a black suit and a small telescope. On September 27, Pvt. Mark Petritz of Butte, Montana, was killed by a rolling log. He was 24 years old, and had married Bessie Kavran just four months earlier. On October 31, Pvt. Ralph Murray, age 31, died in North Bend of pneumonia resulting from influenza, which was spreading through the communities in the Valley. He and his wife are buried together in Coos County, New Hampshire.

Almost immediately after arriving at Snoqualmie Falls in January, Captain Eckles was ordered to send a small detachment of his men to the Northwest Lumber Company camp at Halmar, and this led to an administrative headache that seems to have taken up much of his time. Halmar was located near current Highway 18. It was on a far-flung northern branch line of the Columbia and Puget Sound Railroad, at a point where the Northwest Lumber Company provided few amenities.

Early on Colonel Disque had become aware of the miserable conditions in many logging camps, and, convinced that this was a cause of labor unrest, he required improvements. He demanded latrines and showers that met military standards, special drying rooms for wet clothing, ample living space, and recreation and reading rooms where the men could relax, all to be inspected regularly. The Snoqualmie Falls Lumber Company stepped up. Pvt. Arthur Newby at Camp B reported:

**“We have an excellent camp here, which is clean and sanitary. We live in bunkhouses built on [railroad] car tracks, about sixty feet long and divided into three rooms each. There are ten men to each room. We have all the modern luxuries – steam heat, electric lights, hot and cold water, and last but by no means least, we have the very best eats on earth. They give us all we want and ‘variety’ is the password.”**

Portland headquarters circulated Newby’s description as an example of what could be done.

Halmar did not measure up. First Lieutenant Daniel Hogan did what he could on his own, for instance, writing to the Library Association of Portland, Oregon, to request books and magazines. He received thirty books. He tried to enlist local people to help with the men’s laundry, to no effect. When military inspectors found the sanitary arrangements inadequate, he pressed the Northwest Lumber Company to improve, but in the end the camp was declared unacceptable. The detachment returned to Snoqualmie Falls on March 19, after two wretched months.

A month later the detachment that Captain Eckles sent to the North Bend Lumber Company at Edgewick had a better experience. Part of that had to do with location. Edgewick was a small village of eighteen homes, with a school, offices and a small mill, but it could draw on the resources of nearby Cedar Falls, which served the Seattle Water Department, Seattle City Light and the Milwaukee Road mainline. The company was grateful for help. As R.W. Vinnedge wrote to a former employee serving in France:

**“Labor is exceedingly scarce, and we have been compelled to ask for soldiers, twenty-seven of whom have been provided... We have them working both in the mill and woods. Most of them are splendid boys, but green.”**

North Bend Lumber Company management also accepted Colonel Disque’s assessment that better living conditions would lead to a more stable workforce. The company fulfilled its social requirements by bringing in the YMCA. In the fall of 1919, Mr. Vinnedge described the results to the Pacific Logging Congress at its annual meeting. The company built and furnished a 56x60 ft. hall, with plumbing and lighting, divided off 20 feet for a reading room with a fireplace and small kitchen, and left the rest for a dance floor and indoor sports. A committee of seven elected employees oversaw the hall. He reported that,

**“The question of card playing and smoking in the clubhouse was discussed at great length and it was decided that there would be no ban placed on this amusement but gambling was to be strictly prohibited...”**

Two nights a week there was a moving picture show, and there was a dance or mixed social every Saturday. The YMCA director was paid \$150 per month. Vinnedge told the lumbermen that he was convinced that such efforts would pay for themselves in reduced labor turnover costs alone.

The Snoqualmie Falls Lumber Company adopted a similar plan on a larger scale. The company had already committed to inexpensive family housing, free firewood, a hospital, a school and a company store. Spruce Division soldiers helped construct the first YMCA building at Snoqualmie Falls, a step that led to more substantial buildings later, and established a tradition of having a “Y” in the community that continues on Snoqualmie Ridge today.

The Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen provided some leadership opportunities for local men. Members of the LLLL organized and chose officers for the first volunteer fire department for the community of Snoqualmie Falls. Ed Hemp, a millwright for the Snoqualmie Falls Lumber Company, became the Secretary of the local LLLL, and shared its accomplishments in the *Monthly Bulletin*, which was published throughout the Pacific Northwest. He became a vocal advocate for continuing the union after the war. Young Angus Chisholm of Snoqualmie Falls was appointed a member of the Loyal Legion District 7 council of workers and executives. Though he later became a foreman at the mill, and listed his address in 1920 as, “Nob Hill High Street,” during the 1930s he became the Puget Sound District Manager of the barely surviving LLLL. In the last month of the war, R.W. Vinnedge joined the District 7 Council representing management.

It took Colonel Disque a full year to organize the Spruce Production Division and the Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen. By November of 1918, timber production had increased sharply, new rail lines were reaching isolated pockets of Sitka spruce along the Pacific coast and a new mill was about to open on the Olympic Peninsula. Disque was in command of all of it. Workers and lumbermen seemed content with the new order. In France the American Expeditionary Force and its allies launched the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in September of 1918. It appeared that these combined efforts would lead to victory sometime in 1919.



**\$1000.00 REWARD**  
For the location of the person who failed to have  
**A GOOD TIME**  
AT THE  
**New Year's Eve Dance**  
EDGEWICK  
Y. M. C. A. Building  
**Tuesday, December 31st**  
PROF. ADAMS of Seattle FURNISHES THE MUSIC —  
YOU HAVE THE FUN  
TICKETS - - \$1.00



Suddenly, at noon on November 9, 1918, the German government announced the abdication of Kaiser Wilhelm and its intention to sign an armistice with the Allies. On November 10, the Kaiser went into exile in the neutral Netherlands. At the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month of 1918, the First World War ended.

The next day, Colonel Disque received a telegram from Washington D.C. ordering the Spruce Production Division to cease operations. Logging stopped immediately. One by one the squadrons were recalled, first to Vancouver and then to the forts where soldiers had mustered in. The 33<sup>rd</sup> Squadron left Stillwater and returned to the Vancouver Barracks on December 21, 1918. It was deactivated on January 8, 1919. The 37<sup>th</sup> Squadron left Snoqualmie Falls and returned to the Vancouver Barracks on December 22. It was deactivated on January 7, 1919. In September of 1919, the Spruce Production Division's equipment and property were sold at pennies on the dollar.

As the soldiers returned home and the country readjusted to a peacetime economy, some Americans began to question the entire war effort. The treaty that followed the armistice was rejected by the U.S. Senate, and the United States refused to join the League of Nations which was supposed to prevent future wars. Republicans in Congress denounced the motives and competence of the Wilson administration. There were charges of war profiteering. Congress launched an investigation, and one of the prime targets was the Spruce Production Division.

There were some serious questions. Should the army rule entire industries? Should the government create unions? Had a few favored logging companies overcharged naïve government officials for the work they had done? How much usable Sitka spruce was actually produced, and was it even needed after the aviation industry learned how to substitute readily available fir and Port Orford cedar? Was it a coincidence that the commander of the division's rail operations, a former member of the Board of Directors of the Milwaukee Road, laid miles of track that led from dense, productive, privately-owned forests straight to feeder lines of the Milwaukee Road? Should 40 miles of track cost \$12,000,000?

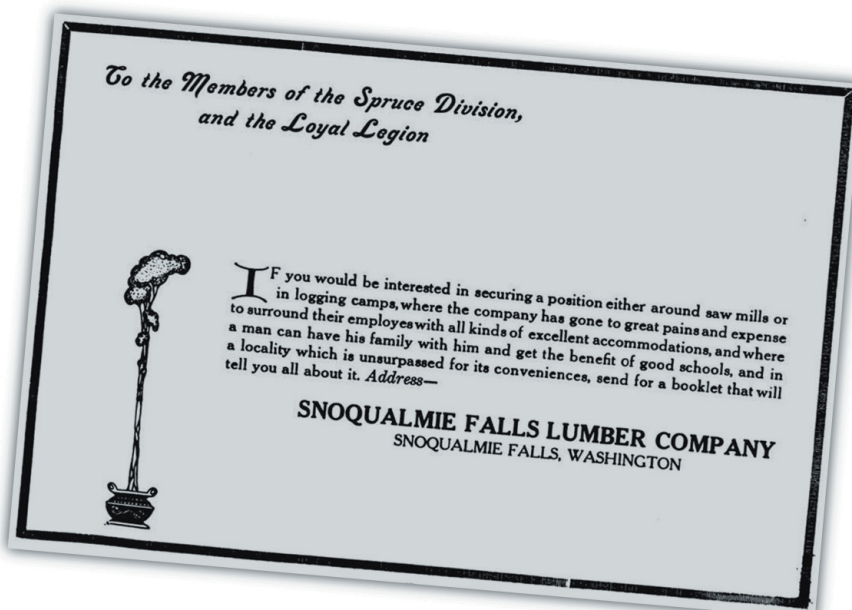
The House Select Committee on Expenditures in the War Department set out to find the truth. Its hearings were often heated, and charges of collusion and incompetence were levelled. The September 6, 1919, issue of the trade journal *American Lumberman* reported on the committee's hearing in Seattle, and cited several examples of angry testimony, including this instance:

**"Capt. Charles A. Turner, of Everett, who served more than a year in the Spruce Division with a picked force of 120 soldier-loggers under him, said he operated in the Stillwater camp, King County, and did not get out a stick of spruce. His work was among fir entirely, for a civilian contractor. He bitterly denounced the 'peonage system,' saying a law should be enacted making such a practice a felony."**

Colonel Disque steadfastly defended his position that the Spruce Production Division had accomplished its mission. In the end the Republican and Democratic members of the committee reached contrasting, partisan conclusions, and the investigation came to nothing.

Whatever might be said about the specific criticisms, working conditions improved for lumber workers in the Snoqualmie Valley. Above all the eight-hour day stuck, and operators such as the Snoqualmie Falls Lumber Company continued to focus on providing amenities that would stabilize its work force. An advertisement in the final issue of *the Monthly Bulletin* of the LLLL demonstrated the company's desire to build on the gains imposed by Colonel Disque.

Gardiner Vinnedge





# LOCAL SACRIFICE

During World War I at least seventeen men from the Valley died in service to our country. Each of these men lived a life worth remembering and had families that loved them. One hundred years of Remembering Those Who Served...

## WWI

Arthur William Lyford

Battista Pasini

David Renton

Edward Clements Koester

Charles Mattson

James Elverud

Peter Erickson

Alfred Parenti

Bert Smith

William Swen

Ralph Murray

Carl Larson

Albert Emery


Lester Pickering

Virgil Detrick

Mark Petritz

Carl Flaig

The Snoqualmie Valley Veterans Memorial is located at 38625 SE River St, Snoqualmie across the street from Snoqualmie's City Hall.



SNOQUALMIE VALLEY  
VETERANS' MEMORIAL

REMEMBERING THOSE  
WHO SERVED

# Snoqualmie American Legion Renton-Pickering Post 79 Namesakes

Cristy Lake and Dave Battey



## David Gleason Renton

David Renton, a North Bend man, was born in 1893 on a heavily timbered claim on the North Fork of the Snoqualmie River. He attended the North Fork school, but a good share of his education came from working at hard jobs – when only fifteen, he was pulling a buck saw at a cottonwood pulp mill before heading to Montana for a railroad construction job. He was there only a short time before coming home to find work. In 1917, he and his friend Bob Johnson were working in the woods near Skykomish when they decided to join the armed forces. They returned to Snoqualmie, and with Earl Odell and Jim Mattall went to Seattle to enlist in the 20<sup>th</sup> Engineers. They were sent to Washington, D.C., for outfitting and training. In December 1917, David was hospitalized with a case of measles, so he stayed behind when Bob, Jim and the rest of their unit were deployed to France.

A month later, fully recovered, David sailed for Europe on the troopship *Tuscania*. The destination was Liverpool, but before the ship reached port disaster struck. On the evening of February 6, while passing through the north channel of the Irish Sea, the *Tuscania* was struck by a German submarine torpedo. The ship stayed afloat for about three hours before going under. Like many others, David attempted to escape in a lifeboat, not realizing that wind and tide were pulling them toward the cliffs of the Isle of Islay, off the western coast of Scotland. Most men not picked up by midnight were smashed on the rocks, with 100% loss of life, including David. Amazingly several other local boys survived the sinking of the *Tuscania*. Charlie Hanson was on a lifeboat picked up by an English trawler. Joe Knott, a resident of Monroe, was also saved, as was Charlie Cabe of North Bend. About four years later David Renton's body was returned to the States and buried with military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.



## Lester Bert Pickering

Lester Pickering was born and raised in Novelty, attending the Novelty school where he excelled at math. He was sent to Lincoln High School in Seattle, graduating in 1913 and then enrolling in the University of Washington. He was at the top of his class. When the war started in 1917, he immediately volunteered and was granted a commission as Second Lieutenant of the 316<sup>th</sup> Engineers. After rapidly finishing his studies and graduating in June 1917, he proceeded to Camp Lewis and then to San Francisco for more training. In December 1917, while in California, he married Lela Thayer. In June 1918, he was promoted to First Lieutenant on the eve of departure for France. He was described as “a young man of the highest ideals, most sterling character, and indomitable perseverance [who] would undoubtedly have made his mark in his chosen profession to which he was passionately devoted.”

In late September and early October, Lester was in the Argonne Sector, taking part in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive or the Battle of Argonne Forest. It was the largest and bloodiest operation of World War I for the American Expeditionary Force, commanded by General John J. Pershing, and was one of the deadliest battles in American history. There he took a bullet in the leg and was sent to a hospital. He was recovering when he contracted influenza, which degenerated into bulbar pneumonia. On October 15, 1918, he died. He was buried at the American Cemetery in Vosges, France. Later his body was returned to Novelty for reburial.

# NATURAL HISTORY

## RED ALDER – “WEED TREE” REDEEMED

Our native alder tree is the primary deciduous tree in Western Washington. It loves freshly disturbed soil and avoids shade and grows very quickly. The scientific name is *Alnus Rubra*, or Red Alder, for obvious reasons. When exposed to air, the inner bark turns a deep red-orange, providing a dye that Northwest Native Americans used to make their fish-nets almost invisible in the water.

Our Red Alder is also the largest alder species in the world. It is wind pollinated and has male and female flowers on the same tree. It also has cute little seed cones, reminiscent of much larger conifer cones.

Alder is a wonderful firewood. It is clean, easy to split, has no sticky ‘pitchy’ sap and does not promote soot buildup in chimneys like fir or hemlock. However, farmers and loggers disdainfully referred to alder as a weed tree, for the way it took over immediately after logging or after mineral soil is exposed.

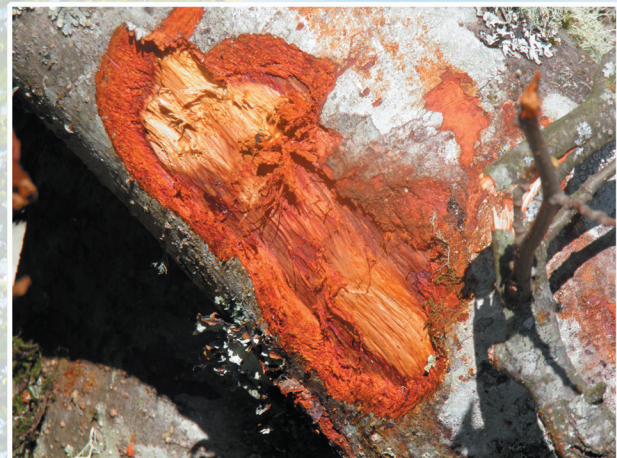
Hidden on the roots of alder are the primary reason for its redemption – nitrogen fixing nodules. Nitrogen, taken in by the leaves, migrates to these root nodules, where symbiotic bacteria transform the nitrogen in to a form chemically useful to plants as fertilizer, and then leaches this fertilizer in to the soil. Up to 500 pounds of nitrogen per acre in strong stands of alder. Of course, the tree fertilizes itself as well as the surroundings, so when the leaves fall they help build healthy fertile soil in the forest.

Experiments by Forestry students helped solve the riddle. They planted a stand of solid Douglas fir and a similar stand of half fir and half alder. The mixed plot provided as much harvestable fir as the 100% fir plot.

Then woodworkers found our alder. It is easy to work with and reasonably strong and has replaced Eastern hardwood in much of today’s home furniture.

So, in a practical sense, Red Alder is a huge legume-like plant, paving the way for the productivity of the balance of the forest – and furnishing our homes.

Dave Battey



# What Is a Donkey Fireman?

In 1918, the Spruce Production Division issued a standard wage scale for all jobs in the woods and sawmills of the Pacific Northwest. Hourly rates varied, and some workers were even allowed to negotiate their pay, but why? To understand the scale, you have to know what each job involved. See if you can figure out what these workers did for a living. If you are stumped, you can find logging dictionaries online.

## III.

### SAWMILL REGULATIONS.

9. The following maximum pay of certain employes in sawmills should be considered as the greatest to be paid and in no way as a standard.

#### *Sawmill (Hourly Pay).*

Car Loader .....	\$0.50
(or equiv. rate per M)	
Carriage Man .....	.475
*Cook .....	Optional
*Asst. Cook (per month) .....	\$100.00
Dogger .....	.50
Edgerman .....	Optional
Asst. Edgerman .....	.50
*Engineer, Chief .....	Optional
*Engineer, Helper .....	Optional
Filer, Band .....	Optional
Filer, Circular .....	Optional
Filer, Asst. Circular .....	Optional
*Fireman, Head .....	.47
*Fireman, Asst. ....	.45
*Foreman, All .....	Optional
Grader .....	.55
Laborer .....	.45
Log Deck .....	.525
Millwright .....	.675
Asst. Millwright .....	.575
Off Bearer .....	.50
Oiler .....	.525
Piler .....	.50
(or equiv. rate per M)	
Planer Feeder .....	.525
Planer Trimmer .....	.50
Resawyer .....	.60
Setter .....	.55
Tallyman .....	Optional
Trimmerman .....	Optional
Asst. Trimmerman .....	.50
*Waiter and Dishwasher (per month) .....	\$95.00

#### LOGGING CAMPS (hourly pay).

Blacksmith .....	Optional
Blacksmith's Helper .....	\$0.40
*Brakeman, Head .....	.60
*Brakeman, 2nd .....	.55
Bucker .....	.55
Bucker, Head .....	.60
Bucker, Windfall .....	.55
Bucker, Wood .....	.45
*Camp Helper (per month) .....	\$90.00
Chaser .....	.55
Chokerman .....	.55
*Cook .....	Optional
*Cook, 2nd (per month) .....	100.00
Drum Tender .....	.45
*Engineer, Donkey .....	.60
*Engineer, Duplex .....	.60
*Engineer, Loco. ....	Optional
Faller, Head .....	.60
Faller, 2nd .....	.55
Filer, Head .....	.65
Filer, 2nd .....	.60
*Fireman, Donkey .....	.45
*Fireman, Loco. ....	.40
*Foreman, Grade .....	.45
*Foreman, Section .....	.45
*Foreman, Track .....	.45
*Head Handy Man .....	.65
High Climber .....	.80
Hookon Man .....	.55
Hook Tender .....	.90
Knotters .....	.45
Loader, Head Long Log .....	.75
Loader, Head Short Log .....	.65
Loader, Second Long and Short .....	.55
Log. R. R. Men (Construction) .....	.40
Machinist .....	Optional
Main Line Section Men .....	.35
*Pump Man .....	.45
Rigger, Head .....	.65
Rigger, 2nd .....	.55
Rigger, Third or Helper .....	.55
Rigging Slinger .....	.55
C. O. Rigging Man .....	.55
Signal Boy .....	.40
Skidroad Man .....	.45
Sniper .....	.50
Spool Tender .....	.45
*Superintendent .....	Optional
Swamper .....	.45
Unhook Man .....	.55
*Waiter and Dishwasher (per month) .....	\$95.00
Wood Splitter .....	.45
*Woods Foreman .....	Optional

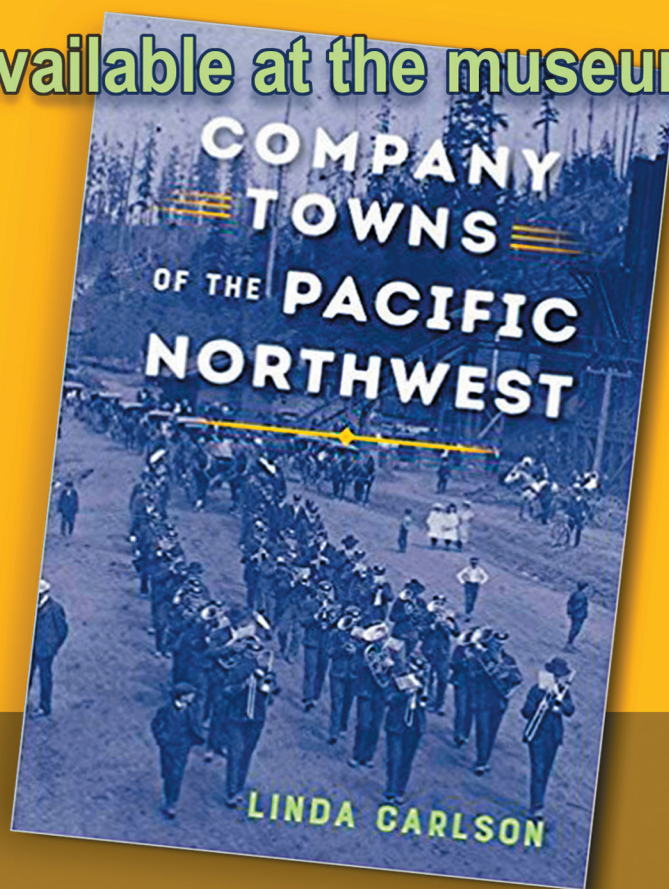
  
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on Monday and Tuesday afternoons  
and on our website  
[www.snoqualmievalleymuseum.org](http://www.snoqualmievalleymuseum.org)

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