

Nancy's Notes of Nostalgia
By Nancy Horrocks – March 1993

Logging

Once upon a time, as many stories begin, but, actually just prior to the First World War, there was, in our community, a bustling, successful (for a time), well-known logging operation known as the Wood & Iverson Mill at Hobart, Washington. It was located west of the Issaquah-Hobart Road near S.E. 188th, approximately one mile north of the present Hobart Market. The mill had a logging railroad traversing many miles throughout our areas, which included the top of West Tiger Mountain.

So how does Four Lakes enter the picture? One of the mill's many lines headed to the northwest on the southwest side of the Issaquah-Hobart Road. This line veered to the west, entering Four Lakes at approximately Jackie Greening's property. It continued north of Hoganson's, crossing the ravine between the Harrison (for sale) and Horrocks' properties.

Two stringers spanned the ravine. These were large fir logs at least three feet in diameter and some fifty feet long. It was over these stringers the locomotive and logging cars crossed as they continued toward the Cedar Grove Road, still heading west at approximately Southeast 160th for perhaps another three-eighths of a mile. .

Eventually, as time passed, the moss-covered stringers dropped into the ravine, the stream cutting around and under them. They helped to form small dams and eddies, creating homes for various forms of life, thus continuing a part of life's cycle. Until the late sixties, remnants of these two stringers could still be seen.

However, this was not to be the end of logging on the farm. During the early fifties a small logging outfit began operating here. It started as a portable sawmill, but, as the timber on the farm was beginning to be exhausted, they started logging on adjacent properties and eventually hauled logs as far north as the Pine Lake Plateau and as far south as Black Diamond. The mill was no longer portable! It continued its expansion until the owner lost his arm in a logging accident in the woods.

The mill pond was located on the Ray property, and is still in existence. The mill itself was located on the Groeneveld-Meijer and Johnson properties. Every once in a while, homeowners in that area will run into evidence of the sawdust pile or perhaps turn up a remnant from the slab pile.

Unfortunately, for some reason, we never took pictures of the mill or the people who worked there. But, in one of our albums is a picture of a particularly beautiful dogwood tree in full bloom that was located next to the old sawdust bunkers on what is now the property of the Prochazka's. This is all we have to remind us of the old mill and its people.

One final note. David's father reserved two groves of trees from the logging operation. They were located to the north of lake #2 on the properties of Hoganson, Styskal and Jones and to the south of the lake on the properties of Clark, Liebling and O'Brien. However, with the

sale of the farm in 1968, because of the value of these magnificent trees, loggers once again appeared.

The sound of these majestic sentinels crashing to the ground is one of the saddest sounds I have ever heard. The sound, unfortunately, still echoes in my mind.