

## ...Lumber tour

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Company for its efficient operation and excellent record-keeping.

"Their business is so admirably systematized that they can tell at any time just how many logs they have in the river, how much lumber they will make, what they have cost, and at what time they will arrive at their mills in Traverse City. They have five shanties and employ about 100 men in the Pineries. They will get out logs enough this winter to make about a million feet of lumber."

"The two mills at Traverse City are competent to make 50,000 feet in 12 hours. They are situated on the narrow peninsula between the river and the bay. In the spring the logs are floated from the Pineries directly to the rear of the mills, where they are hauled inside by machinery, converted into lumber, and placed upon the wharf in front ready to be loaded aboard vessels and shipped to Chicago."

Bates went a bit overboard in describing the "free-and-easy" life of the lumberjacks. It really wasn't all that jolly. The work was hard and dangerous, and the pay was marginal. He was right about the food though; in general it was very good.

The pineries and the lumber camps are gone forever, but the route the two men took on their visit is easily followed today. Take Woodmere Avenue south along Boardman Lake, then jog over to Garfield on South Airport Road. Garfield follows the old state road as it angles southeast, climbing to the "table land." At the top of the steep hill that descends into the river valley turn left on Hobbs Highway and go

straight east on Rennie Lake Road.

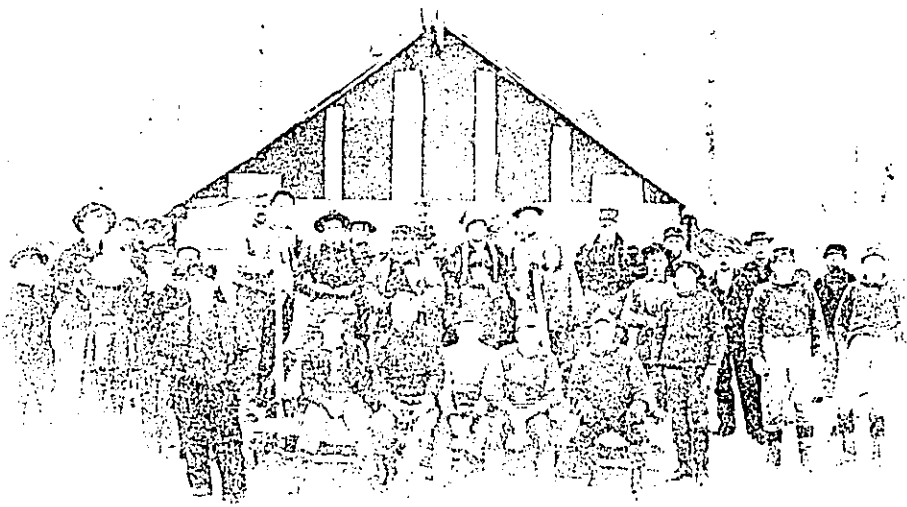
Hobbs Highway and Rennie Lake Road follow the "narrow ridge just wide enough for the road." On the right is a drop of 300 feet to Brown Bridge Pond, which was formed by a hydroelectric dam built in 1922. The view from Rennie Lake Road across the river valley is indeed spec-

tacular, especially in autumn color. Somewhere along here was the big log rollway.

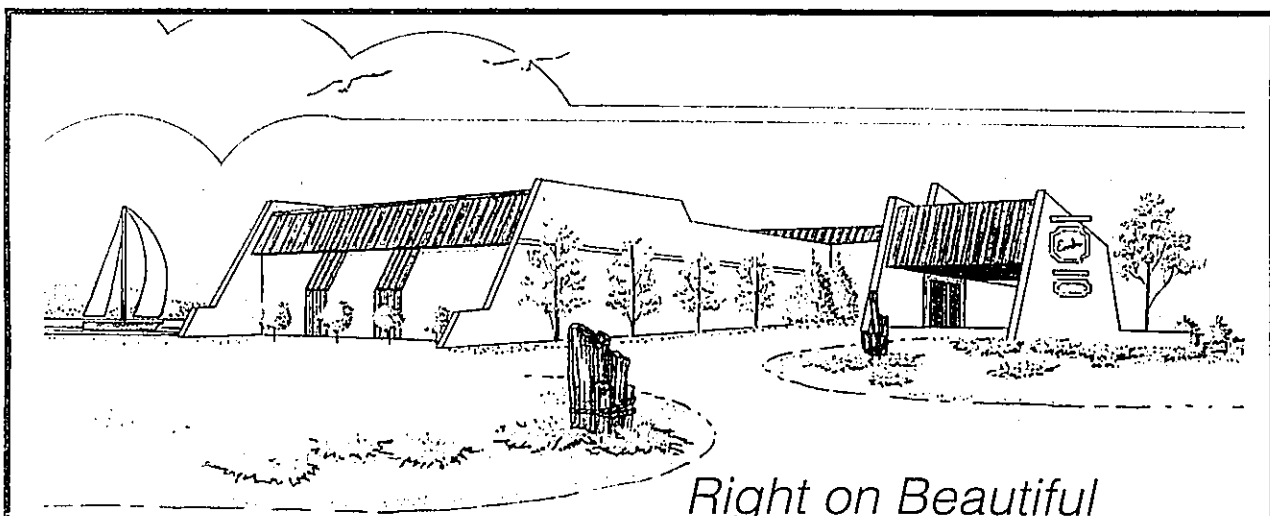
On the left is the "chain of lakes" mentioned by Bates, they include Arbutus Lake, Spring Lake, Spider Lake, Bass Lake and Rennie Lake. All but Arbutus Lake are now obscured from view by the

thick second-growth timber.

On the final leg of the trip, the two men descended to the river bottom on Rennie Lake Road, and across the river on the bridge near Ranch Rudolf. A logging road across the river valley took them to Nelson's shanty and Roney's camp in the hills south of the river.



A typical lumber camp crew



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