

INTERVIEW ON TIMBERING

GLEN HUNTER

1. Background (Glen the son of the well known John H. Hunter)
2. Glen has many talents and is a very political person.
3. Glen's father was an important factor in the lumber industry
4. John Hunter's background
5. John Hunter's move to Michigan
6. John building an outhouse for Joyce Watkins, a multi-million-
is what got him started financially. (True humor)
7. Watkins backing John Hunter with first logging business
8. John Hunter's political background
9. John Hunter's educational background
10. I saw the J*H log marker
11. John Hunter's engineering the most unique, ingenious method of
getting the logs down the river.
12. Two kinds of lumberjacks
13. Famous lawsuit of Cleveland Cliffs verses Zagelmier
14. Transitions for moving logs, from the process of dams to move
the logs, to moving them by railroad.
15. Glen and his poor hillbilly friend he met in the woods
16. Glen later meets "well-to-do" hillbilly boy

Northern Michigan University

Kenneth Haggart

Oral History of Michigan

John H. Hunter and His Important
Factor in the Lumber Industry

Dr. Russell Magnaghi
Oral Michigan History
5/21/83
Kenneth Haggart

GLEN HUNTER

This is an interview of Glen Hunter, the son of the well known Jonh H. Hunter. John Hunter has a whole section written up on him in the The Northern Penninsula book written by Alvah L. Sawyer in 1911, Volume 111, published by The Lewis Publishing Company of Chicago. The article is located on page 1377.

Glen Hunter is now retired, However, he was a history teacher and an administrative person at the Newberry State Hospital for several years.

Glen was by far the most interesting, entertaining person to interview, all we had to do was to sit back and listen. He has a gift to bring you back to yester-year, alive and in color.

It is the opinion of many, that Glen is one of the most important assets that Luce County has going for them. He is very much involved in political aspects of all areas yet today. In fact, he is leaving for Washington D.C. to meet and discuss other uses of our State Hospital for more employment in Newberry next week.

Glen is also a very talented man. He built his own cabin and home by himself, they both have unique features inside and out. He has built most of his furniture, lamps, tables and chairs of oak, and there isn't a store that could sell such beautiful art work. Glen cuts all of his own wood for the cabin and his home. He flys his own airplane and he drives a little red sprts car.

His favorite time is being with his grandchildren and friends and family.

I have interviewed Glen Hunter on tape. He gave me a very interesting and enlightening true story about his father and his Uncle Bob. It is all about how the lumber industry had a great share in the development of Luce County.

Glen's father, John H. Hunter, was an important factor in the lumber industry in Luce County as well as in the Upper Peninsula, where he conducted extensive operations, and where he had great interests in this line both in an individual way and through his background with the Hunter and Love Lumber Company of which he was president. He was a citizen who actually was an engineer. He had confidence, brilliance and esteem; and his liberality and public spirit were a strong asset in the future of the material and social advancement of the community.

Mr. Hunter was born in Victoria County, province of Ontario, Canada on April 18th, 1863. He was the son of David and Eliza Hunter. They too were natives of that county. David Hunter was prominently known in connection with lumbering operations though later turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. David and Eliza had ten children.

John Hunter was raised to the sturdy discipline of the home farm and received his education from the public schools of his native county.

In 1891, John H. Hunter (twenty-eight years old) came to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and established his headquarters at Huntspur, Mackinac County. This is where he contracted for getting the logs out of the woods. He continued the log operation under the same conditions for four years and then moved to Rapid River in Delta County where he continued the same line of enterprise until 1896.

If I may, I'd like to tell you how John H. Hunter really got his start by being sponsored by none other than the multi-millionaire, Joyce Watkins of Chicago. Watkins came to the lumber camp where John Hunter was working. Watkins detested the smelly old outhouses and asked John Hunter to dig a hole and build him a private "outside John". John knew how Watkins felt and built an "outside John" over some logs which were over a river. Mr. Watkins liked that "outside John" so well he told John that he would help him out with whatever John wished.

In 1896, with backing from Mr. Watkins, John Hunter set up his own logging business, and after three years of successful operations in Delta County, he moved to Luce County and established his home in the village of Newberry. Here, he built a very extensive business in which he transported gigantic rafts of logs down Lake Superior to Sault Ste. Marie, many of the rafts representing a value of forty thousand dollars.

Mr. Hunter's business was one of the most extensive and best known lumber operations in the Upper Peninsula at that time. In 1898, he established a saw mill four miles north of the village of Newberry and was successful for a long time. In 1909, he effected the organization of the Hunter and Love Lumber Company which controlled a large and prosperous business, and of which he was the president.

In politics, Mr. Hunter gave his support to the cause of the Republican Party and he had been shown distinctive marks of popular confidence and esteem--He served two terms as president of the village of Newberry, and he was a school board member of Newberry. He was affiliated with the McMillan Lodge, No. 400, Free and Accepted Masons; Luce Lodge, No. 89, Independent Order of Odd Fellows; The Manistique Lodge, No. 632; and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

In 1891, Mr. Hunter married Miss Ellen Hood whose death occurred in 1899. She was survived by her husband and three children.

In 1900, John Hunter contracted a second marriage to Miss Clementine Summerville. John and Clementine had five children.

John Hunter was the oldest child and attended the Forestry Course at the University of Michigan. He graduated from Newberry High School at the head of his class. He was very popular among his peers and acquaintances, being a "macho" young fellow who was sure to "deliver the goods" at some future time.

Glen showed us his father's Log Marker which was a sledge hammer type with JH on one end which was similar to a branding iron. They would pound that JH into the cut ends of the logs and at the end of the river voyage of logs, they would have great separating vats where they looked for the JH. John Hunter walked along

the winding rivers and figured out how to build dams to the best advantage of moving the logs downstream--it was an ingenious method. John's brother was the lineman, and he too was an expert in his field. He worked an average of twelve forties per day. Today, linemen do about two forties per day. (A lineman was a cruiser.)

Glen told us about a famous lawsuit that took place in about 1946 between the Zagelmier Corporation and Cleveland Cliffs. Cleveland Cliffs accused Zagelmier of taking the "Cream of the Crop" trees only and Zagelmier denied it. The judge at that time asked Bob Hunter to be the main cruiser as a referee of the court hearing. Bob Hunter cruised and found it was true--Zagelmier did take the "Cream of the Crop". A great money sum had to be settled then.

Glen said in the early years, there were two kinds of lumberjacks. The first were the rough and tough kind. In the summer they became the original hobos, hopping trains and bumming food. The reason for this was the fact that the camps were too infested with mosquitos for the lumberjacks to work.

The other kind of lumberjacks were the kind who worked during the winter, spring and fall, but did not become hobos during the summer months like the single lumberjacks. Instead, they had farms that they went back home to work and families to stay with during the summer.

Glen recalled the transitions of progress from moving logs down the river by the process of dams to moving them by railroad. His dad built and therefore owned his own railroad. Horses pulled the sleighs loaded with logs to all of the railroad sights.

Glen further reminisced about working in one of his father's camps. When they came out of the woods to catch the train, there was always a young hillbilly boy that met them on the same day of each week. He would look so forward to seeing Glen, he would invite him into their shanty, which was poorly made and had no floor. He always offered him bread and they would dip it into the big grease pot that always sat on the back of the wood stove. Glen said it was gross, but he always ate it and thanked the boy for the food.

Glen is 69 years old and just six years ago a prosperous man came up to to him in the Paul Bunyan restaurant and said, "Your Glen Hunter, aren't you? I bet you don't know who I am." Glen had no idea, and he said, "I'm the young, barefooted hillbilly boy that used to invite you into our shack for a bite to eat." They have become close friends, and the poor hillbilly boy moved downstate and earned his way to the top of a huge corporation. he is now retired and very wealthy and lives on Manistique Lake.

Glen has so many beautiful true stories to tell and adds humor and entertainment throughout.

I feel terrible about the tapes of this interview, though Glen said he would do them again for me. These are extremely difficult to listen to.

Glen also spoke to me about the K.K.K. and the C.C.C., he is is an outstanding man and I hope you will have the opportunity to meet him sometime.