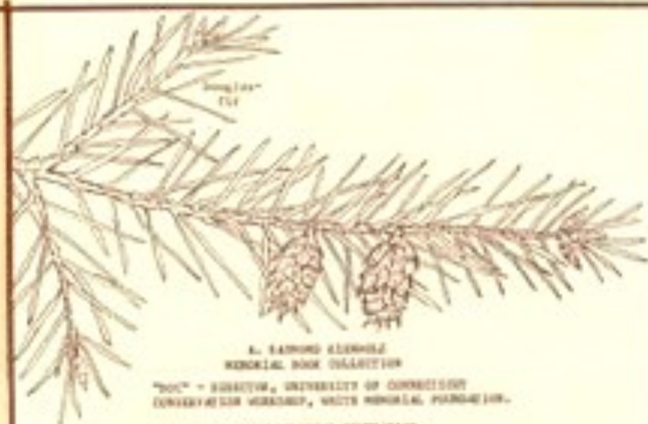
The image shows the front cover of a book. The cover has a textured, sage-green background. A gold-colored illustration of a pine branch with several clusters of needles is positioned diagonally across the upper half. A black rectangular label is centered over the branch, containing the title "Pine Acres Farm" in a gold, serif font.

Pine Acres Farm



A. TAYLOR KENNEDY
MEMORIAL BOOK COLLECTION
"DOC" - BUREAU, UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
CONSERVATION MUSEUM, WHITE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION.
DIRECTOR, WHITE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION.
"TO GOD, A SALE IN THE WOODS HAS A KIND OF FRAGRANCE."

This book was given by
The Kienholz Family



ESTABLISHED
by
CONSERVATION TOUR U.S.A.
1951

APR
1972

Given to the Goodwin Conser-
vation Center by the White
Memorial Conservation Center
August 18, 1985

and by Susan M. Kelley

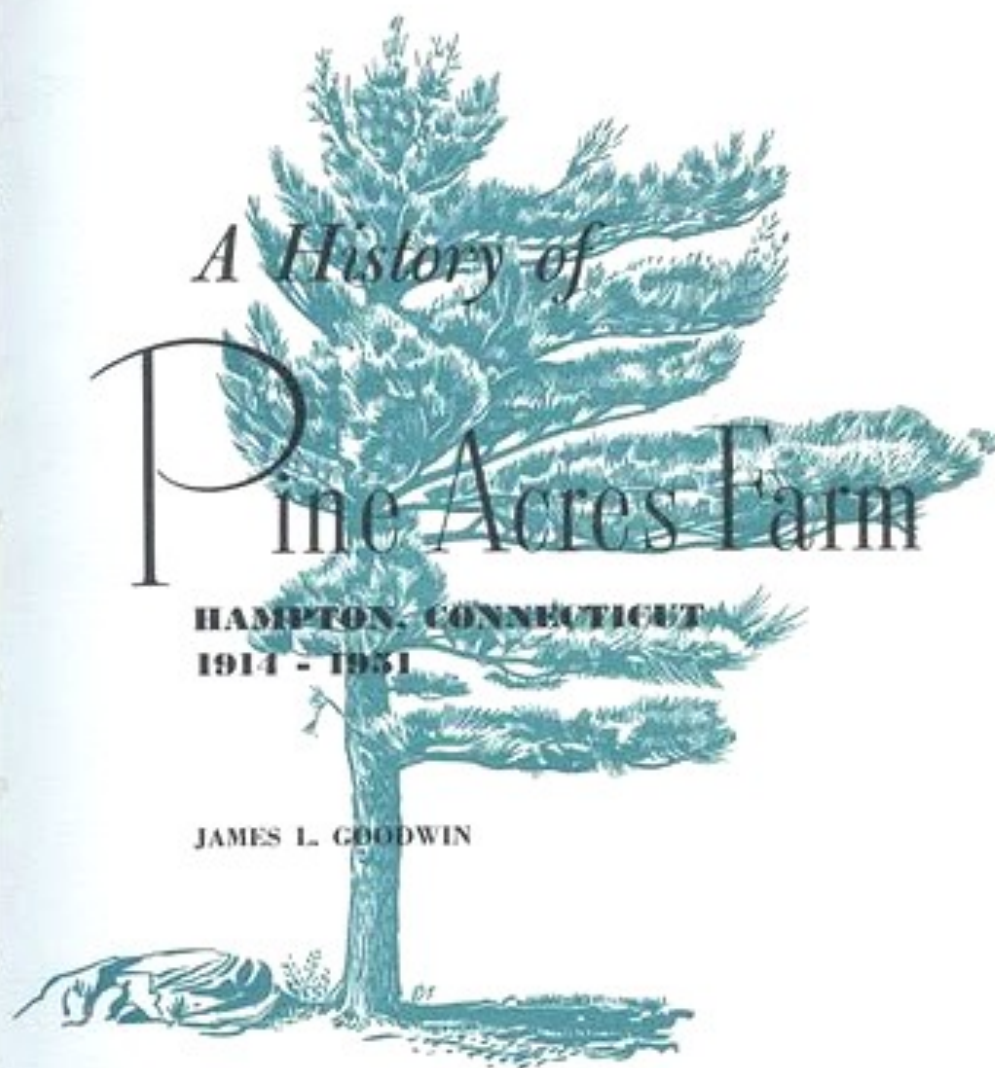
Raymond Keesholz
Storrs, Connecticut
from the author.
Dec. 1952.

A History of
Pine Acres Farm



*With the
compliments of
the author and
wishing you a
Merry Christmas*





A History of

Pine Acres Farm

**HAMPTON, CONNECTICUT
1914 - 1951**

JAMES L. GOODWIN

Privately Printed

Eschfeld Nature Center and Museum
Litchfield, Conn. 06759

*Dedicated to my wife
Genevieve H. Goodwin
who has given me
great encouragement and
help in the writing of this
history*

March 1, 1973

The Heart of the Tree

HENRY CUYLER BUNNER

Born August 3, 1835; died May 11, 1896

*What does he plant who plants a tree?
He plants a friend of sun and sky;
He plants the flag of breezes free;
The shaft of beauty, towering high;
He plants a home to heaven anigh
For song and mother-croon of bird
In hushed and happy twilight heard—
The treble of heaven's harmony—
These things he plants who plants a tree.*

*What does he plant who plants a tree?
He plants cool shade and tender rain,
And seed and bud of days to be,
And years that fade and flush again;
He plants the glory of the plain;
He plants the forest's heritage;
The harvest of a coming age;
The joy that unborn eyes shall see—
These things he plants who plants a tree.*

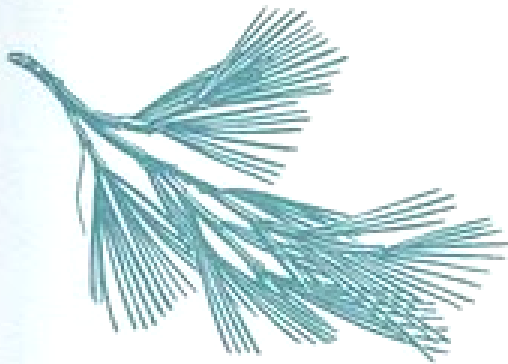
*What does he plant who plants a tree?
He plants, in sap and leaf and wood,
In love of home and loyalty
And far-cast thought of civic good—
His blessings on the neighborhood
Who in the hollow of His hand
Holds all the growth of all our land—
A nation's growth from sea to sea
Stirs in his heart who plants a tree.*



Entrance to Pine Grove as it was in 1914. Later blown down in 1918 hurricane



Tent house used by men clearing land 1914-1915



A forester should, if he has the means and the time, in my estimation, own and manage a tract of woodland according to forestry principles and in this way learn in a truly practical way what it means to cut timber conservatively and make it pay. In this way, through experiment, trial and error, can he learn what is the best forestry practice, which those who do not have the responsibility of running their own forestry business enterprises cannot fully appreciate and understand.

After graduating from the Yale Forestry School, it was my ambition to own, develop and operate my own timber tracts according to the best forestry principles. In 1913, therefore, having become familiar with the northeastern part of Connecticut where there was much abandoned and unused farm and pasture land suitable for reforestation, and also large areas of oak hardwoods, I finally found and purchased what seemed to be a most favorable location for a forestry and timber project. Two miles west of the little village of Hampton, 12 miles south of Pomfret, on the north side of the Hartford to Providence highway now route 6 stood a three-acre grove of white pine about 35 years old, and surrounding it many acres of unused pasture and brushland which could be purchased for from \$8 to \$15 an acre. The soil was a sandy loam suitable for the growth of pine and the Highland Division of the N.Y., N.H. and H.R.R. was situated only a short distance away, with a siding at Clarks Corner three-quarters of a mile distant, mak-



Original old house on site of present Pine Acres Farmhouse 1914



Original old barn 1915



Farmhouse in course of construction—Year 1915

ing a short haul for lumber, ties, and cordwood, or other wood products to be shipped away by freight.

The purchase of this grove with 25 adjoining acres of old field brushland in December, 1913 was the beginning of Pine Acres Forest. During the winter of 1913 and 1914 this brushland, which consisted mostly of gray birch and alders and had invaded many abandoned pastures and hay fields, had to be cleared before pines could be planted. This work was done by some men who were housed in a canvas tent erected near the pine grove and during the spring of 1914, 16 acres were planted with four-year white pine transplants. The remaining 9 acres consisted of a growth of hardwoods. The following winter, in December, 19 additional acres were purchased to the east of the original tract including an old tumbled down house surrounded by ancient lilac bushes and apple trees and a little barn on the other side of an intervening town road. I then thought it best that a resident superintendent manage the property, so in 1915 the old house was torn down but the hearth and chimney stones were saved together with some paneling and old beams and were used in the construction of a new house designed on the old Connecticut pattern



Harry Bates with load of cedar logs cut from Cedar Swamp to be sawn into shingles for barn roof, January 1916



Land in front of farmhouse prepared for garden—Vickers house in distance, 1916



Vegetable garden in front of house, 1916



Spraying apple trees by new farmhouse 1916



Farmhouse and barn 1917

by Philip L. Goodwin, my architect brother. The east side of the house was planned for the use of the forester and the west side had rooms for me while visiting the farm. Construction of the house was begun in the summer of 1915 and finished the following spring. As I also contemplated some farm operations, I built in 1916 a large barn with hayloft, cow and horse stables, garage, and rooms for a hired man. The shingles used on the roof and sides of the barn were manufactured entirely from white cedar obtained from an adjoining cedar swamp. Those on the side of the barn are still there, while the roofing shingles lasted for twenty-five years, and were eventually replaced by asbestos shingles. Meanwhile, I engaged as superintendent, C. Aubrey De Long, of Pennsylvania, a graduate of the Mt. Alto Forestry School, who came with his wife in the fall of 1915. During the construction of the house in the winter of 1915 and 1916 the De Longs lived in the canvas house in the pine grove and much of the time lived on the rabbits which abounded in the woods. In the spring of 1916 part of the pasture lot to the south of the house was cleared of trees and stones and an intervening stone wall, and since then has been used as a vegetable and flower garden. At the lower end of this



Haying, Riley lot, Mr. De Long on load 1917



Completed farmhouse winter 1917

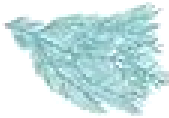
pasture lot near the State road stood a small house, near a well and large lilac bushes, which was occupied by two colored families who were part Indian, the Vickers and Bates families. Sam Vickers was employed to cut wood and Harry Bates, his brother-in-law, drove the farm team. Bates was a good teamster, tall and very strong; he kept his horses in fine condition and always had them looking neat and well-groomed. A few years later this house was torn down and that end of the lot included in the vegetable garden. Later this year 27 adjoining acres were purchased, to the east of the town road and around the barn, from Lester Burnham.



1917

There were four purchases of land, 51 acres of cut over woodland between the barn and the New Haven Railroad from

Clark; 27 acres from W. R. Phillips on the south side of the State road; the Riley farm of 140 acres consisting of 16 acres of open fields, an old apple orchard of 4 acres and the rest woodland; and the Ford farm of 124 acres of which 20 acres were open hayfields, the rest being woodland and pasture. The five-acre lot near the farmhouse was planted with red pine, and five acres east of the swamp was also planted with red pine.



1918

Six acres of the Riley open lot were cleared of stone, ploughed up and planted with oats, while the Phillips land was planted with 1,000 Douglas fir trees near the Fiske road. This plantation did not turn out to be a success as deer browsed on it continuously in the winter and out of the 1000 trees planted only some 10 or 12 eventually remained. Late that fall, C. Aubrey De Long, the superintendent, left, and L. Rupell, an employee, who lived in the apartment over the barn, took charge and managed the farm temporarily.

On account of the war, when all farmers were urged to produce as much food as possible, no tree planting was done, and potatoes and oats were planted in the open Riley fields.

Mrs. Brayman's open pasture lots, of 10 acres north of the Riley place, were purchased.



1919

In January the so-called Cannon property, consisting of a house on the main highway and 75 acres of woodland, was purchased from Lester Burnham.

That spring the Riley four-acre orchard, in which grew a number of old apple trees, consisting of Pearmain, Baldwin, Fall Pippin,



*Red Pine plantation near
barn 1919*



*Mr. Walker and men
threshing rye—Riley field
1920*



*Farmhouse, barn and milk
room—1920*



Cow at Riley field 1921

Astrachan, and Russet varieties, and where oats had been planted the previous year, was planted with 400 apple trees set 20 feet apart. This was an unusually narrow spacing, but was done so as to obtain a larger yield of apples while the trees were small. When the trees became larger and began to interfere with one another it was my intention to remove every other tree so as to allow a final spacing of 40 x 40 feet, thus removing three-quarters of the trees. There was also planted in this orchard, between the young apple trees, rye from which in the fall sixty bushels of seed was obtained and sold for \$130. The old apple trees were sprayed and pruned and 60 bushels of apples were obtained from them in the fall. East of this orchard 1½ acres were planted with white pine. During the winter of 1919 to 1920 the 20-acre Cannon wood lot, in which there was much dead chestnut and some white oak, was entirely cut over by Frank Phillips who brought in a portable sawmill and cut 175,000 board feet of lumber and 200 cords of wood, for which he paid \$2,000.



1920

In the spring, Mr. and Mrs. George H. Walker came from Manchester to take charge of Pine Acres. They were fond of animals and introduced cows and chickens, pigs and ducks and geese and Guinea hens. Pine Acres from then on was a fully equipped farm. Mr. Walker looked after the farm while Mrs. Walker kept the accounts.

28½ acres of the Cannon, Brayman and Riley open pastures were planted with 29,000 red and white pine three- and five-year old transplants.

300 bushels of apples were obtained in the fall from the old apple trees in the Riley orchard. These were sold to a wholesale dealer in Willimantic.



Mr. Walker and pigs 1921



Spraying potatoes, Riley field 1921



Mr. Walker and Pandora 1921



Pandora and Mr. Walker 1921

*First spruce plantation for
Christmas trees 1921*



Geese near barn 1921



*Sam Vickers cutting swamp
maple in Cedar Swamp
1921. Now the lake*



1921

The Cannon 20-acre wood lot cut over the year before by Phillips was planted with 20,000 red and white pine three-year transplants, while 4½ acres of the Brayman open pasture was planted with 4,500 red and white pine trees, and the Ford five-acre pasture was planted with 20,000 Norway spruce two-year transplants spaced three by three feet. This was the first plantation made for the purpose of raising Christmas trees. The three by three spacing was



Harry Bates and team with load of hay Orchard No. 1 1922

later found to be too close for the best and most symmetrical growth of Christmas trees and was not attempted again.

Early in April a fire burned over one and one-half acres of the Brayman plantation, due to the careless burning of brush during a high wind. This was the first fire to occur on the property. To replace the burned trees 1,500 Norway spruce were planted for Christmas trees that same spring.



1922

Mr. and Mrs. Walker left that spring as caretakers, and Mr. and Mrs. William M. Beckwith of Manchester took their place. As much time and work was needed this year to start the apple orchard in the six-acre Riley field near the Cedar Swamp, no reforestation work was done. This open field was cleared of stones, brush, and an intervening stone wall, and was planted with 680 apple trees twenty feet apart, consisting of McIntosh, Baldwin, Fall Pippin, Russet, and Duchess varieties. In order to provide work for the men during the summer, when work in the woods was not practical, I decided upon

this enlargement of the apple orchards. In order to keep out deer, which were very numerous and fond of feeding on the branches of the young apple trees, I had the orchards entirely surrounded with wire fence eight feet high. The cost of fencing the two orchards of ten acres was \$175. Potatoes were planted among the apple trees in the second orchard to enrich the soil and also to obtain some income from the land. 746 bushels of apples were obtained from orchard number one in the fall and sold to a wholesale dealer at seventy-five cents a bushel.

In May of this year the Chapel farm on the northwest side of the railroad, consisting of 150 acres and a house, was purchased. 17 acres of this property were open hayfields and ever since its purchase have been used for hay and pasture land for the cows. In the purchase of this farm 20 acres of the Ford hayfields on Hampton street were deeded to Mr. Chapel as part payment for his farm. The house was occupied by one of my employees and his family.

Two acres of the Phillips land south of the State road were planted with red and white pine.

An International tractor was purchased. This was the first tractor to be operated on the farm. The team of horses was still retained, however, and the tractor used for work in the orchards and hay fields.



1923

In April, Mr. Beckwith left on account of ill health and Mr. De Long returned as superintendent. On the Ford and Riley brushland ten acres were planted with 10,000 Scotch pine as an experiment. This species grows rapidly but due to the fact that in New England it usually forms a very crooked trunk, and does not make a good timber tree, it has not been continued for reforestation purposes.



Entrance gate to Pine Acres Farm 1924

The Ford Christmas tree lots were planted with 22,000 Norway spruce as replacements for many trees that had died.

In the apple orchards many replacements had to be made. Potatoes were grown again in orchard number one.

As the different properties were purchased they were surveyed and mapped and divided into compartments for management purposes, but up to this time no attempt to do any woodcutting on a large scale had been made. A wing was added to the farmhouse designed by Philip Goodwin, making a living room with two bedrooms above. The old living room was used as a dining room, and the old bedroom upstairs turned into a bathroom.

A Fordson tractor was purchased to replace the International which was too heavy for practical use.



1924

In March of this year a fire burned over 43 acres of pine plantations between the railroad and the barn and the State



Addition to Farmhouse 1924

road, the second and most destructive fire to occur in the forest. It was probably caused by a spark from a railroad locomotive, and was first noticed by the railroad section crew near the track shortly after a train had passed.

The land where the fire in the spring had occurred was cleared during the summer and prepared for replanting the following spring. As the fire had been definitely proved to have been caused by a locomotive spark the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Company agreed to pay me damages of \$2,336. These were appraised by Professor Hawley, of the Yale Forestry School, on the basis of the cost of the plantations and the value of twenty cords of wood burned.

In the fall $8\frac{1}{2}$ acres of the Chapel brush land were cleared and planted with 8,600 two-year red and white pine seedlings. So far reforestation had cost from \$10 to \$22 an acre, depending on the character of the land to be planted.



*J. L. G. and International
Tractor—First tractor used
on farm 1922*



*Road leading to farm after
snowstorm 1926*



*Farmhouse after snowstorm
Feb. 1926*



*Barn after snowstorm Feb.
1926*

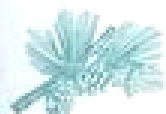
In December the first Christmas trees were cut and sold. \$15.25 was received from these first sales from the first plantation started in 1921.



1925

Seventeen acres of the land burned over the previous year were replanted with 16,000 three-year red and white pine transplants. Five acres burned over behind the barn were not planted, but were left open for pasture.

One and one-half acres of the Cannon pasture were prepared for a third orchard. Meanwhile in the other orchards the trees had to be cultivated and sprayed every year, and occasionally dead trees were removed and replaced. A deer fence was constructed around the third orchard.



1926

Edson C. Stocking, who had been a patrolman for the Connecticut State Forestry Department and the Talcott Mountain Forest Protective Association, came, with his wife, to Pine Acres in May as forester and superintendent. Mr. De Long returned to Pennsylvania to be forester for a large estate there.

Early this year the 15-acre wood lot at the corner of the Cedar Swamp and the eleventh section roads was purchased from Graber. Later 150 acres of woodland were purchased from Deloge which lay partly in Hampton and partly in Chaplin. These purchases started the "Chaplin Forest" subdivision, which contained much valuable oak timber.

During the spring 13½ acres between the farmhouse and the railroad, burned in 1924, were replanted with red and white pine, thus completing the reforestation of the burned over area.



*State Road near farm after
snowstorm Feb. 1926*



Red Pine Plantation—Brayman Lot, 1926



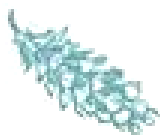
*Spruce Plantation 1926,
Planted 1920*



*Animals trapped by Morse
1927-1928*

The third apple orchard of one and one-half acres was planted with 20 McIntosh and 20 Baldwin apple trees forty feet apart, and the area fenced against deer.

The first large timber cutting operation was started in the fall. 5,800 board feet of logs and 103 cords of wood were cut in a thinning on the Deloge tract.



1927

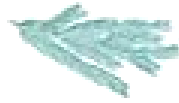
A Caterpillar tractor was purchased from Tyler and Co. in October. This type of tractor was more manageable in the woods. The horses were still retained.

Much improvement cutting was done in the Chaplin woods. 13,600 posts were cut from dead chestnut trees which still prevailed everywhere, and were sold to the State Highway Department for State road use. 115 cords of wood were also cut and sold, and 5,600 board feet of oak logs and 18,000 board feet of dead chestnut logs were sold on a stumpage basis to Fittabile who brought in his portable sawmill.

The dead chestnut made excellent material for fence rails and posts, and over 3,000 chestnut rails were cut and sold to the Reeves Company of New York, who made a specialty of portable fencing for suburban farms and estates.

Five separate tracts of land were purchased this year, 15 acres from E. Chapel; 34 acres from Hanks; 150 acres and a house from Van Durr; 35 acres from Oliver, which started the "Orchard Hill Forest" subdivision, and 68 acres from Sophi Spark, all woodland.

30 acres were planted with 38,000 red and white pine trees in various open lots of the Chapel property on each side of the eleventh section road in the spring, and in the fall ten more acres of the Chapel open land were planted.



1920

During the summer the first timber survey and type map was made by a Russian forester, Mardesheff, a graduate of the Yale Forestry School. This included the then entire wooded area of 680 acres, not including plantations. The total amount of timber was found to be 1,711,842 board feet and 6,203 cords of wood, and the annual growth was computed to be one-third of a cord per acre per year.

This year five separate pieces of timberland were bought. 20 acres from Smith; 12 acres from Rockwood; 48 acres of Cedar Swamp lots from the Tuttle Brick Company; 15 acres from Clark, and 23 acres of very fine timber from Fittabile in Chaplin, all woodland. It might be of interest here to mention the fact that the Cedar Swamp was originally divided into 26 lots, each containing from seven to ten acres. Many years ago, when Hampton was first settled about 1712, the Cedar Swamp was divided into these lots and allotted to the various new settlers in order that each might have a piece of woodland from which he could obtain timber and firewood. In the lots grew much southern white cedar from which shingles were later manufactured, and also much swamp maple which afforded a good supply of cordwood. The 48 acres of Cedar Swamp lots bought from the Tuttle Brick Company were among the last remaining tracts of woodland owned by Connecticut brick companies. For many years these companies had owned large tracts of woodland in the State from which they obtained supplies of wood for baking bricks in their kilns. From now on these companies gradually gave up the use of wood for firing their bricks, and began using oil instead.

In order to maintain some of the more traveled wood roads in good condition, a secondhand stone crusher of the smallest size and a steam boiler and engine to run it at low cost was bought from the town of Tyringham, Mass. and set up just west of the railroad



Fall Field meeting of Connecticut Forest and Park Ass'n October 1928

tracks. It proved very useful in providing crushed stone, obtained from the old stone walls, for the roads. This made them harder and more passable in the winter and early spring.

Early in October the Connecticut Forest and Park Association held its annual field meeting at the farm. About 100 members were present, and in the morning I conducted them about the woods and showed them various forestry operations. Salisbury Woolsey of New Haven, the President, presided. I gave an address of welcome, and Mr. Benton Mackaye, then interested in regional planning for the New England states, spoke of his work emphasizing the need for large public or private woodland preserves.



1929

Owing to the large amount of water used on the farm, I decided to drill an artesian well. A large well in the pine grove had supplied water for many years, but in dry seasons it became low and

was inadequate for all the needs of the farm. It was necessary to drill down 155 feet before a sufficiently large flow of water was obtained. At this depth an underground stream was struck that exceeded thirty-five gallons of water a minute, which was quite ample to supply all the farm requirements. In order to raise the water from this depth a deep-well pump was installed over the well and was sheltered in a small well house.

About this time the white pine weevil began to be quite prevalent in the white pine plantations, killing the leaders on many trees over three feet high. The wilting of the leaders, showing the presence of the weevil, began in June. When this occurred one of the side branches of the next whorl would straighten up and become a leader, thus forming a crook in the trunk of the tree which later, when it had grown to timber size, often made a log too crooked to be cut into lumber. Where white pine was grown in large plantations, the weevil infestations were most numerous, but when planted scatteringly under open hardwoods the weevil damage was much less. To combat the attacks of the weevil the wilted tops of pine trees were cut off and burned wherever they could be reached. This was to some extent successful in checking the spread of the weevil, but did not entirely prevent it.

Much improvement work was done on the wood roads and more crushed stone was put on the entire length of the Martin road, which ran for one and three-quarters miles through the center of the Chaplin forest.

Previously when spraying apples, it was necessary for the spray machine to be returned to the farm, a mile away from the orchards, every time the machine had to be refilled with water, so I decided to construct a small pond east of orchard number one by damming a little brook that ran out of the woods a short distance north of the Riley road. The water was piped down from this pond to a raised tank below the road, from which the spray machine could easily be



White Pine Plantation 1930. Planted 1914—First Plantation

refilled and thus save much time and was also useful for fire protection.

Improvement thinnings were made in ten different areas for cord wood. The cost of cutting at this time was from \$3 to \$3.50 a cord. 20,300 board feet of logs were cut and skidded by the farm men and were sold for \$17 a thousand to Fittabile, who sawed them in his portable mill.

Two purchases of land were made this year, 28 acres of woodland from L. H. Burnham and 19 acres of woodland from Kostyk, both situated in the Chaplin forest.

19,000 white and red pine and Norway spruce were planted on the Chaplin tract.



1930

In the fall of this year I decided to install a sawmill, where Pine Acres logs could be conveniently and quickly sawed into lumber. Up till then the sawing of logs depended upon the uncertain



Red Pine Plantation on Brayman Lot 1930. Planted 1920—Blown down in hurricane of 1938

methods, either of bringing in a portable mill man, or hauling the logs ten to fifteen miles to a mill doing custom sawing. The mill and steam boiler were purchased from C. S. Amidon and Sons of E. Willington, Connecticut, and were installed in a small mill building north of the town road at the top of the rise one quarter of a mile west of the railroad tracks. It was run by the engine and boiler originally purchased for the stone crusher and after a few years by the tractor.

No land was purchased this year. 10,000 red and white pine were planted in open places in the Chaplin woods. 6,000 Norway spruce were planted for Christmas trees.

265 cords of wood and 18,500 board feet of logs were cut in thinnings.

185 spruce were cut and sold for Christmas trees.

A new Caterpillar tractor was purchased to replace the old one.

*Red Pine Plantation South
of barn and along road
1930. Planted 1916*



*Red Pine Plantation East
side of lake 1930. Planted
1917—Blown down 1938*



1931

In January I decided to purchase the very attractive and wild Winslow tract, which had been owned by the Winslow family for 75 years. It was situated $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the farm and formed the most northern boundary of Pine Acres. It consisted of 143 acres and was known locally as Orchard Hill. An old house, falling to pieces, still stood in the center of the property, surrounded by several huge old sugar maple trees 150 or more years old. The foundations of a barn stood not far from the house and about it 20 acres of what had been open pastures or hayfields. Much of this open land, however, had become overgrown and was now reverting to forest. The woodland, consisting of 120 acres, contained much fine old white oak timber. The next year the old house was torn



*Red Spruce Plantation 1930.
Planted 1920*



*Norway Spruce Plantation
1930*

down, and near the open cellar hole an open stone fireplace and lean-to for picnics was constructed.

The apple orchards were now beginning to bear and yielded a crop of 720 bushels in the fall.

21,000 trees were planted that spring on fourteen acres of open land on the Orchard Hill tract.

Thinnings were made on the Chaplin tract, and 400 cords of wood and 15,280 board feet of logs were cut.

In December 139 Christmas trees were cut and sold.



1932

The orchards bore quite heavily and 1,702 bushels of apples were harvested. 1,276 bushels were sold.

Old house on Winslow property, Orchard Hill—at time of purchase 1931



Old house, Winslow property Orchard Hill, 1931



300 cords of wood were cut in improvement thinnings, and 274 cords were sold. Two freight carloads of wood were shipped to a fuel firm in Stamford, which paid twelve dollars a cord.

48,000 board feet of logs were cut and sawed into lumber at the mill. This lumber included the last of the dead chestnut which by now had been entirely cut out.

In December 344 Christmas trees were cut and sold.

Two purchases of land were made, three Cedar Swamp lots from J. Keech and eighteen acres of pasture land from C. W. Hanks. The Cedar Swamp lots purchased from Keech included one in the northerly part of the swamp in which "Governor's Island" was situated. This island of 4 acres was elevated about four to ten feet above the surrounding swamp and was covered with an interesting growth of all the varieties of trees that were found in the surrounding forest. Large old pines, hemlocks, tulips, oaks, beech, hickories and chestnuts with a thick undergrowth of mountain laurel and many rare and unusual wild flowers as trillium and wild calla lilies grew in thick profusion and formed a delightful secluded spot, which when the swamp was flooded the next year and the lake formed, could only be reached by water. Owing to the inaccessibility of the island the trees had never been cut and formed practically a virgin forest. About 1843, the then Governor of Connecticut, John Cleveland, whose home was in Hampton, owned this island thus giving it its name. Many years earlier it is said, in colonial times, this island, because it was so well protected was inhabited by Nipmuc Indians, and is supposed to be the last camp ground of the Indians in Eastern Connecticut.

It was a natural picnic ground and an outdoor fireplace, rustic table and a dock for a boat landing were subsequently erected on the island.

In May I bought an old polo pony from my brother Walter for \$250—and used him to ride around the wood roads.



*Beaver House at
outlet Cedar
Swamp brook*



1933

For some years I had been considering forming a lake by damming up the Cedar Swamp brook at its lower end, and flooding the entire swamp from the State road back almost two miles to its northerly limit near the railroad. Several years previously beavers, believed to have come from the Myers property in Union, Conn. twenty five miles away, had built two houses and two dams half way up the swamp about a mile from the outlet and later this year came down and built another house and dam near the outlet of the stream which ran thru the swamp flooding it back for some distance to a depth of three or four feet. So it seemed quite possible to create a lake by constructing a large dam, which would extend

across the entire width of the swamp at its lower end for about one thousand feet. Work was therefore started in the fall. In order to strengthen it near the State road and to follow the requirements of the State Board of Engineers and the State Highway Department, the dam was reinforced near the State road for four hundred feet by a cement core or wall built inside the earth filling. A spillway or outlet was made where the brook ran out of the lake, and in order to take care of unusually high water a second spillway was built two hundred feet beyond the outlet. It required two years to complete the dam and the result was an attractive lake which maintained a fairly even level of water, although the neighbors predicted that it would dry up in times of drought. The depth of the water averaged five feet but in the course of the brook down the middle of the swamp it was eight to ten feet.

Considerable work was done to improve the wood roads by removing large stones and cutting back the brush on each side of the road and putting crushed stone in the wheel tracks.



1934

The 20th anniversary of Pine Acres Farm. At this time the entire tract amounted to 1,442 acres. There were 230 acres of red and white pine plantations which had been planted at a total cost of \$22,560, and spruce plantations of fifteen acres at a cost of \$1,668. These costs represented not only trees and labor planting, but in many cases preparation of the land previous to planting. The value of the 1,200 acres of hardwood standing timber was \$9,771.

For several years management of wild life had been undertaken. In the spring wild ducks found a breeding place, in their flight north, in the lake, and to encourage them to stay duck feed had been planted along the shore. This duck feed is a very small water plant and floats on the water and spreads rapidly. To encourage partridges,

foxes which prey upon the young birds were trapped or shot. Deer had increased tremendously during the past ten years. In the summer they remained in the woods and were seldom seen, but in the fall and winter they approached nearer to dwellings and roads. When the snow was deep, and they could not get much to eat, they fed upon the tops and buds of the small planted white pine and spruce and occasionally browsed on the long needles of the red pine but did not damage the terminal bud nor deform the tree, as they did in the case of the white pine. They, therefore, did great damage to the more remote forest white pine plantations, and to prevent their feeding on the pines electrically charged fences were erected around several of the plantations in the Chaplin and Orchard Hill tracts. This prevented the deer from damaging the pines to a great extent, but as some occasionally were able to jump the one strand of wire it did not entirely keep them out.

A Civilian Conservation Corps camp had been started in the Natchaug State Forest five miles north of Pine Acres, and the boys from the camp were available for work in the Pine Acres woods. They cut 127 cords of wood, or seven freight carloads, which were sold to a fuel company near Stamford, Connecticut. The farm men cut 280 cords of wood and 20,000 board feet of logs. 440 Christmas trees were cut and sold, together with a large number of pine and hemlock boughs which were sold for Christmas decorations. The work of completing the dam for the lake was continued when opportunity offered during the year.

Twelve acres of land were purchased from Exener in Chaplin to complete the Chaplin forest.

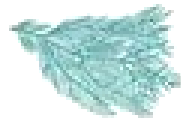


1935

In January the team of horses which had been retained to this time were sold and from now on the Caterpillar tractor was used in the woods and orchards.

As the apple crop had been increasing lately, amounting to one to two thousand bushels a year, which would bring a higher price if stored and sold gradually during the winter months, a cold storage plant was constructed in the barn. The horses had been sold and there were only three cows so the horse and cow stable was greatly enlarged by deepening and widening it so as to provide a space that would hold from four to five thousand bushels of apples. The Schorer Company of Hartford was engaged to install an air cooling system to be run by electricity which would maintain a constant temperature of 34 degrees Fahrenheit. This cold storage plant has been extremely useful in making it possible to hold the apples practically all winter long until about April 1. The crop has been sold usually as a whole to Foster, a wholesale fruit dealer of Willimantic, who comes to the farm about once a week with his truck, takes what apples he wants from the cold storage and sells them to retailers.

Land purchases were fifteen acres of woodland from Rosen on the Fisk road and fifty acres from T. Navin mostly woodland with two and one-half acres of cultivated land.



1936

The Bay State Nurseries, of Framingham, Massachusetts, approached us for the purpose of buying 8,000 red pine trees four to six feet high. They were willing to pay \$1,000 for these and dig and transport them themselves. An agreement was consequently made with them to buy this number and they took them from behind the Cannon House and from Orchard Hill.

In order to have more white pine lumber on hand for sale, 18,777 board feet were purchased, cut and hauled from the Yale Forest in Union, Connecticut, twenty miles away, to Pine Acres and sawed into lumber at the mill.



Hurricane damage 1938 on plantation

Three hundred trout were put into the brook. These were purchased from the American Fish Culture Co. at Carolina, Rhode Island.

50,000 board feet of oak timber was cut in thinnings and sawed at the mill.

Much work was done in the pine plantations, weeding and cutting tops of trees damaged by the weevil.

In March 60 acres were purchased from Charles Cartwright. This land was north of the Cedar Swamp road, and was bounded on the west by the Cedar Swamp. It consisted mostly of oak, with a fringe of hemlock and pine along the swamp and thick laurel undergrowth.



1937

In order to still further increase the supply of white pine lumber, 28,408 board feet of white pine logs were again purchased from the Yale Forest, in Union, at a stumpage price of \$5 a thousand



Hurricane damage in grove by house 1918

board feet. The costs of cutting, skidding and hauling these logs by Pine Acres men to the mill was \$29.31 a thousand. The average price received for lumber sold locally was \$31.62 a thousand board feet.

Improvement thinnings were made in several compartments. 294 cords were cut. Cutting and skidding cost \$2.88 a cord, and the average price received was \$4.95 a cord.

100 cedar rails were sold at 33¢ apiece, and 37 posts were sold at 40¢ apiece.

In 1936 the lake had been stocked with trout, but the water was too warm and they did not survive. Therefore, large mouth bass, more accustomed to warm water were put in in the spring and have proved a great success.

In the fall there was a large apple crop and 2,345 bushels were picked. The cost of growing the apples was 64¢ a bushel and marketing 12¢ a bushel or a total cost of 76¢ a bushel. They were sold to Foster in Willimantic at 92¢ a bushel. A new spraying machine was purchased from Matteson Co.

In December 533 Christmas trees were cut and sold, the total expenses being \$112.47, and receipts \$189.15.

Two tracts of land were purchased, ten acres of woodland in the town of Chaplin, from Mrs. McGuigan in March, and twelve and one-half acres cut over hardwoods in the town of Hampton from J. P. Rock. These were included in the Orchard Hill Forest and made the total acreage of Pine Acres Forest 1,650.



1938

On September 21st occurred the hurricane. Traveling north just off the Atlantic coast at great speed, with tremendously high winds, its center struck inland across Long Island Sound and whirled up the Connecticut Valley with a fury and destructiveness that had not been experienced in over one hundred years. West of the Connecticut River the force of the wind and destruction was not so great, but east of the river as far as Providence and Cape Cod the wind, blowing at a velocity of over one hundred miles an hour, blew down whole forests of trees, church steeples, barns and roofs of houses, to such an extent that for days roads were blocked with fallen trees and electric light and telephone poles and wires, and complete recovery was not accomplished for weeks, while it required four to five years to salvage the blown down timber in the Pine Acres woods. The storm struck in the afternoon about two o'clock and lasted for four hours. About four inches of rain fell during this period, and this downpour, added to the heavy rain of the previous four days, made the grounds so soft that large old trees were an easy prey for the hurricane winds, and went down more easily than the smaller younger trees which offered less resistance to the wind. Pine Acres that evening was a sad sight, the entire white pine grove of three acres in front of the house, with the exception of one tree, was flat on the ground; fifty acres of the older red and white pine



Hurricane damage 1938

plantations, twenty feet high and over, were a tangled mass of trunks and branches, but the Norway spruce plantations still stood upright and did not seem to be nearly as badly damaged as the pine. In the hardwood forest the larger and older oaks were uprooted in the more exposed places. It was a sad and discouraging situation, and one that evidently would require several years to clear up. The first thing that had to be done was to clear the roads, and for this purpose the State Forestry Department allowed the use of twenty men from the C. C. C. camp in the nearby Natchaug State Forest. In about a week's time these men had the main roads sufficiently cleared to allow the passing of trucks or automobiles. Then began the long, slow, tedious task of cutting the larger trees into logs and removing them to the sawmill, and cutting the smaller trees into cordwood. Later the C. C. C. men helped in clearing away the blown down pine plantations, which unfortunately were mostly of too small a size to be of use for either lumber or cordwood. Owing to the serious condition of the woods everywhere in eastern Connecticut, a meeting of private forest owners was called by A. F. Hawes, the State



Hurricane damage by Lake 1938

Forester, and held in the Senate Chamber in the Capitol at Hartford. Mr. Hawes explained the plans of the U. S. Forest Service to aid forest owners in New England by purchasing logs cut from blown down trees. These logs had to be cut and hauled away to be sawed into lumber by mills run by the U. S. Forest Service. The Government gave this assistance all through New England to timber owners whose timber had been damaged by the hurricane and for this purpose established a central bureau in Boston known as the New England Timber Salvage Corporation. The Government was very particular about the quality and kind of logs they received, accepting only good quality oak and maple. The result was that in 1939 and 1940 only 91,218 board feet were accepted from Pine Acres. However, in addition 200,000 board feet were salvaged from the Pine Acres woods and sawed into lumber at the Pine Acres mill. Hundreds of cords of wood were cut from smaller blown down trees.

It required four years to clean up what wood and logs could be saved, but even after this period much blown down timber still remained, but had begun to decay and was impossible to save.

Probably only sixty per cent of the blown down trees could be used. In order to obtain some good timber that had not been blown down 22,000 board feet of undamaged trees were cut.

In the orchards many apple trees were blown over or badly tilted by the wind. The trees that could not be straightened were cut into firewood. The tilted trees were straightened by the tractor.

It cost \$300 to repair the road and fences about the orchard and to straighten the trees that were not entirely uprooted. 687 bushels of apples were blown from the trees and picked off the ground. Fortunately most of the crop of 900 bushels were picked before the storm. Much damage also was done to buildings, especially to the barn and sawmill and repairs to these cost \$200.

3,400 linear feet of posts were cut from blown over swamp cedar trees and sold, and 184 posts were obtained from blown over oak trees.

I asked Professor Hawley of the Yale Forestry School to come up from New Haven and appraise the amount of damage in the pine plantations. He estimated the percentage of damage in each plantation and as a careful account of the cost of establishing all plantations had been kept the loss incurred was allowed as a deduction in my income tax for that year. As the spruce plantations suffered very little or no damage it was possible to make a cutting in December of 675 Christmas trees.



1939

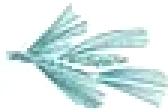
During the winter the blown over three-acre tract of white pine about fifty years old in front of the house was cut into logs and the whole area cleared. 50,000 board feet were obtained and sawed at the mill. In the spring 2,114 red pine trees eight years old were transplanted from an Orchard Hill plantation and planted in this area in front of the house at a cost of \$881.

Repair work was continued on damaged roads and bridges at a cost of \$1,500. Men from the C. C. C. camp at the Natchaug State Forest continued to work at Pine Acres and spent a total of 4,208 hours clearing six miles of road from blown down trees. In Orchard No. 1 where most of the wind damage to the apple trees occurred many trees had to be replaced, but nevertheless, that fall 1,970 bushels of apples were obtained.

In the Chaplin forest 79,968 board feet of blown down timber was cut at a cost of four dollars and fifteen cents a thousand board feet. Most of this timber was cut into lumber at the Pine Acres sawmill. The New England Salvage Corporation bought 10,836 board feet grade one logs at \$19.80 a thousand; 15,658 board feet grade two logs at \$14.40 a thousand; 51,414 board feet grade three logs at \$10.80 a thousand board feet, or a total of 77,908 board feet. From the plantations 12,508 board feet of red and white pine logs were obtained from blown down trees and sawed at the mill.

Eight plantations were weeded and 1,000 red pine four-year transplants were planted at Orchard Hill.

At Christmas 1,046 spruce trees were cut. 940 Christmas trees were cut from one plantation of three acres.



1940

The work of clearing up after the hurricane still continued. Twelve plantations that had been blown over and cleared were replanted with 12,568 red and white pine and Norway spruce four- and five-year transplants.

As more than half of the large timber on Governor's Island at the upper end of the Cedar Swamp Lake had been blown down, the logs were hauled away on the ice during the winter and a planting of white pine, red pine, Norway spruce and larch was made on the island.

Due to the damage caused by deer eating the tips of the newly planted pine and spruce trees during the winter, when snow was more or less deep, I decided to surround several of the more remote plantations including the one made on Governor's Island with electric fences. This prevented the deer from entering the plantations to some extent but not entirely, and some damage was done.

The Timber Salvage Administration continued to buy hurricane blown trees in the Chaplin woods, purchasing an additional 13,310 board feet for which it paid \$170.05. The entire amount of hurricane blown down timber bought in 1939 and 1940 by the Government Salvage Corporation was 91,218 board feet. The entire amount of hurricane timber sawed by the Pine Acres mill in 1939 was 104,429 board feet. In 1940, 29,746 board feet of standing timber not affected by the hurricane was cut in thinnings and sawed at the mill. 124 cords of wood were cut from blown down trees in the Hampton tract, 379 cords in the Chaplin tract and 18 cords in Orchard Hill. 636 fence posts and 633 stakes were also cut from blown down trees.

584 spruce were cut and sold in December for Christmas trees.

The amount of deduction allowed in my income tax on account of damage to the plantations was \$1,676.20 and on account of damage to the apple orchards \$380.

In the fall a timber survey was made by Harold Sweeton, which required a month to complete. This estimate should have been made in 1938 but on account of the hurricane was postponed to 1940. He found 1,056,299 board feet of standing timber over ten inches in diameter, and 9,573 cords of wood of smaller trees. The blown down timber still salvageable amounted to 285,141 board feet and 1,525 cords of wood. The last timber estimate had been made in 1928, and during the twelve year period between 1928 and 1940 831,237 board feet of logs and 4,139 cords of wood were cut. The difference between the survey of 1928 and 1940 added to the amount cut in this period showed a total growth of 460,836 board feet of



Men loading Cordwood 1941

timber and 6,203 cords of wood. During this twelve year period 597 acres had been added to the wooded property making the total forested area in 1940, 1,278 acres. This, of course, was taken into account in computing the growth. The tremendous loss by the hurricane explains the great difference between the timber cut and the growth.

The total annual growth on the entire tract was estimated to be 38,403 board feet and 753 cords of wood or 30 board feet and six tenths of a cord of wood per acre per year. During the next ten years, therefore, according to the best forestry practice, this was the amount that could be cut annually from the entire tract without depleting the forest capital.



1941

The cutting of hurricane damaged trees still continued and 745 cords were cut from blown down trees. Some of this wood, 37 cords, was shipped by freight to a fuel company, Graves and

Strang, of Stamford. 1,046 posts were also cut from damaged trees and sold to various surrounding towns for highway purposes. Hardwoods were now accepted for posts by the State Highway Department in place of dead chestnut which had by this time everywhere been entirely cut out. These had to be creosoted to make them durable in the ground. The creosoting treatment, however, was done by the highway department. Prices received varied between thirty and fifty cents a post, the lower prices being paid by the purchaser when he transported the posts himself, and the higher prices when the posts were delivered by the seller. 21,549 board feet of logs were cut from wind damaged trees and sawed into lumber at the mill.

Twenty-three compartments were replanted with red and white pine and Norway and white spruce where plantations had been blown over. 10,370 Norway spruce and 24,550 white spruce were planted for Christmas trees. On the Brayman lot which had been completely destroyed red pine and white spruce were planted in a mixed plantation, one-fourth red pine and three-fourths white spruce with the idea of removing the white spruce for Christmas trees and leaving the red pine with an 8 x 8 spacing to grow into timber. In the Orchard Hill forest 3,000 white pine and 800 white spruce were planted in new plantations. Altogether this year 49,000 trees were planted at a cost of \$1,539 or about \$30 a thousand for trees and planting. As the Norway spruce had become affected by the white pine weevil and the white spruce grew more slowly and had a more symmetrical form, we were now planting it exclusively for Christmas trees.

On June seventh the Connecticut Forest and Park Association held its annual spring field meeting at Pine Acres. A tour was made of the Hampton and Chaplin woods. Stops were made to observe the damage done by the hurricane and also at the spruce plantation at Compartment 2L which had produced so many Christmas trees and the blue ribbon plot in the Chaplin forest. A picnic lunch was held

at Orchard Hill after which there was a brief speaking program. Mr. Christopher Gallup, the president, presided and introduced the speakers, Colin G. Spencer of Carthage, North Carolina, president of the North Carolina Forestry Association who spoke on "Making a State Forestry Conscious," and Chester Martin, secretary of the Connecticut Wild Life Federation who spoke on "Educating for Conservation."



1942

Several underplantings were made in the spring in hardwood areas where the hurricane had done much damage. 3,000 Norway spruce five- and six-year transplants and 8,350 white pine four- and five-year transplants were planted in the Chaplin tract.

111 cords of wood were cut from wind damaged trees and 370 cords were obtained from improvement thinnings. Also, 14 cords were cut in weeding fifteen plantations and 19 cords were cut in stumpage sales at fifty cents a cord. 7,716 board feet of logs were also cut in improvement thinnings from standing undamaged trees. 56 cords were sold and delivered by freight to a fuel company in Stamford. 510 cords were sold locally.

4,000 bushels of apples were obtained in the fall from the orchard, the largest crop ever produced at Pine Acres. 3,500 bushels were sold to a wholesale dealer in Willimantic.

1,787 Christmas trees were sold from five spruce plantations. The cost of cutting was \$219.35 and receipts were \$1,049.60 making a profit of \$830.25. In addition \$34 worth of spruce and pine boughs were sold for Christmas decorations.



1943

By this year most of the trees blown down or damaged by the hurricane had been cut into lumber, cordwood or posts.

Those that remained had deteriorated to such an extent that they were of no commercial value and could not be used or sold. The red and white pine plantation trees blown down had been cut into four foot lengths by the C. C. C. men and by this time much of the wood had dried sufficiently to make it of use as firewood. It was not saleable, but could be used in the farmhouse wood-burning furnace.

369 cords were cut in improvement thinnings and 64 cords were sold on a stumpage basis to purchasers who came and cut marked trees in the Hampton forest for which they paid one dollar a cord.

1,928 posts were cut both from standing and blown down timber and 91 posts were obtained from weeding operations in the plantations. 1,010 posts were sold to towns for highway purposes.

As most of the larger wind damaged trees had been removed not much cutting for logs was done. Only 3,430 board feet of standing trees were cut.

In December a large cutting of Christmas trees was made, 1,725 being cut and sold.

The apple crop was not as good this year, only 540 bushels being obtained.

4,000 white spruce five-year transplants were planted for Christmas trees in the open pasture near the sawmill.



1944

Due to the difficulty of obtaining coal or oil during the war the demand for firewood was becoming greater every year and many people were burning wood in their furnaces. The cost of cutting wood by the cord had increased greatly during the past two years and the average price was now six dollars a cord. The farm cost for skidding was \$1.53 a cord, and the stumpage price one dollar a cord, making a total cost of \$8.60 a cord. The average price

received for the 332 cords sold this year was \$12.40. Much of this wood was delivered by the Pine Acres truck to purchasers for \$16 a cord. However, over 100 cords were sold at the roadside for \$10 a cord, the price decreed by the War Production Board for wood sold in this way.

1,421 posts were cut and sold for highway purposes to nearby towns. These were mostly oak. Some were delivered to the town by the farm truck, but most of them were called for by the town purchasing them. The cost of cutting and peeling was twenty cents a piece and the average price a post received was sixty cents.

470 cords of wood were cut in thinning operations. During the war years when the demand for fire wood was very heavy, all orders for Pine Acres cordwood were completely taken care of. 8,690 board feet of logs were cut in the Chaplin and Orchard Hill forests and sawed at the mill. The price of cutting, hauling and manufacturing lumber due to labor costs was very high, but the prices received for lumber were also very high. The prices received varied from \$40 to \$120 a thousand board feet, the average price being \$57.82 for the lumber sold.

On account of the heavy cutting made during the past three or four years in the spruce plantations for Christmas trees, it was thought advisable to cut and sell very few trees this year in December. Only 132 trees were cut and sold.

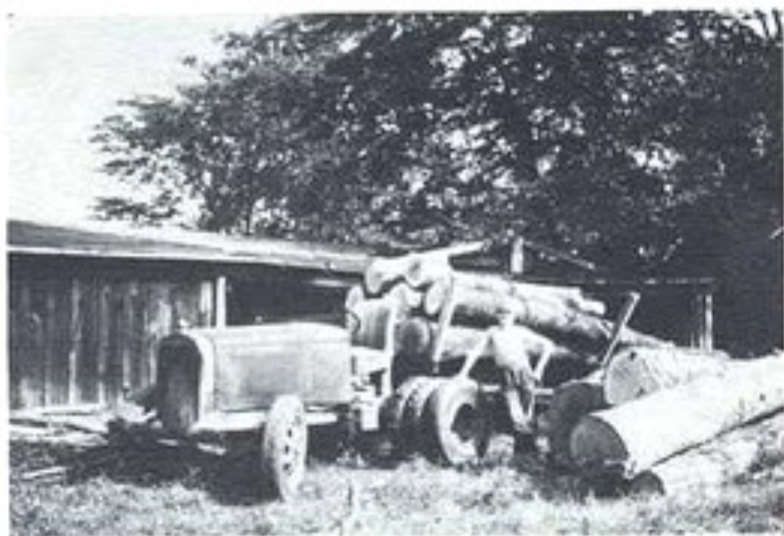


1945

Owing to the severe frost after a warm March which had caused the trees to bud and blossom much earlier than usual, the crop of apples was only 750 bushels, much smaller than usual. If the men had not worked all night for two nights keeping smudge fires lighted in the orchards the entire crop would have been ruined



Part of dead fish, Pine Acres Pond 1945



Logs at Mill, Pine Acres

by the frost. As it was, there was an operating gain of \$630 and 712 bushels were sold off the farm.

Due to the lake freezing almost to the bottom in the winter, and heavy falls of snow, slowly decaying vegetable matter formed gases in the water killing thousands of fish and when the ice melted in the spring over 8,000 bass and perch were taken from the water and used as fertilizer.

At the request of many neighbors for permission to fish in the lake, fishing was allowed during the summer and fall. A fee of fifty cents a boat a day was charged and only catfish were allowed to be caught, and any bass taken had to be thrown back. \$104 was taken in during the summer from these fishing permits. Marion Stocking, daughter of the superintendent, managed the fishing and looked after the fishermen. A new dock was built and several new rowboats built for the use of the fishermen.

In the forest, improvement thinnings were made in nine compartments. In Compartment 5 in the Hampton forest, which was originally a plantation of red and white pine planted in 1920, into which much hardwood had come, a heavy thinning and release cutting for the pine was made by men of the State Forestry Department. 18 cords were removed at a charge of six dollars a cord. This was the regular price for woodcutting per cord that winter. 316 cords of wood were cut in the entire forest. 15½ cords of wood were sold on a stumpage basis to people, at one dollar a cord, who came in and cut the wood themselves. The average cost of cutting, skidding and stumpage was \$8.92 a cord. The average price received for wood sold was \$13.11 a cord.

34,608 board feet of logs, mostly oak, were cut in nineteen compartments and sawed at the mill. The average cost of cutting, hauling and sawing the logs was \$44.99 a thousand board feet and the average price received for lumber was \$72.37 a thousand board feet.



Saw Demonstration, November, 1946

649 posts were cut and sold to five different towns for highway purposes. The cost of cutting and peeling these posts was twelve cents apiece. Two towns came and took their posts and to three towns posts had to be delivered. The price received was 65¢ apiece.

107 railroad ties were cut in four compartments at 30¢ apiece and the price received was \$36.79 a thousand board feet. 33 ties make one thousand board feet.

6,875 white and Norway spruce were planted for Christmas trees.



1946

Every year the care and maintenance of the apple orchards in the summer was requiring more and more time, while on the other hand the forest plantations at this season as they grew older needed more attention. Forestry is the main objective at Pine Acres, so I decided to try the experiment of renting the orchards and



*Old Maple Orchard
Hill 1948*

found that Clark Stocking, who lived in Hampton and was Edson Stocking's younger brother, would take over them and the cold storage plant for one year. I rented the orchards to him for \$300. This price included the apple crop and the use of the farm spray machine, while he was to employ his own men and purchase his own spray materials and baskets. I also rented to him for the same period the cold storage plant for \$365.

The first cutting from a pine plantation was started early in the winter. In Compartment 9B a red pine plantation of five acres on the eleventh section road, planted in 1924, a heavy thinning was made. The trees averaged twenty-five feet high and eight inches in diameter and were cut by a recently purchased power gasoline saw which did fast and excellent work. 20 cords were obtained in this thinning and sold for pulpwood, a market for which had recently been established in Connecticut, and 965 board feet of logs which were sawed into lumber at the mill.

Improvement thinnings were made in ten hardwood compartments and 20,817 board feet of logs were obtained which were also sawed at the mill.



Red pine posts cut in thinning 1950. Planted 1927. Post I pruned 1945. Post II unpruned

346 cords of wood were cut and skidded at an average cost of \$9.09. 220 cords were sold, but the cost of sawing and delivering to customers was so high as to cause a loss.

156 posts were cut and sold to towns for highway purposes.

237 Christmas trees were cut and sold. Of these 14 were red pine for which there seemed to be an increasing demand.

Twenty-two plantations were weeded. From Compartments 5C and 5D, twenty acres, which were thinned and weeded by State Forestry men in 1945 and 1946, 67 cords were obtained. In order to make clearer lumber in the pine plantations the best and straightest trees were pruned to a height of eight feet above the ground in five compartments.



1947

Edson Stocking, the superintendent, bought two and one-half acres of open land from me in Compartment 6 at the southeast corner of the Fiske and State roads and started to build a house of his own in order that I might occupy the entire farmhouse, where some alterations were made. The Stockings' living room was turned into a library study, the kitchen was done over, the rear porch was opened, and a bedroom was made in the attic. A garage was built for my use near the chicken house, and the vegetable garden, used by the Stockings, was turned into a lawn.

As the rental of the apple orchards to Clark Stocking had not worked out satisfactorily, I resumed the operation of the orchards. 2,174 bushels were obtained in the fall of which 667 bushels were sold before January 1, 1948.

On account of the extremely small demand for wood, due to the almost universal use of oil or electricity for fuel, an unusually small amount of wood, $6\frac{1}{2}$ cords were cut this year. There were about 100 cords left over from 1946 and this was sufficient to supply the few demands that were made. $11\frac{1}{2}$ cords were sold on a stumpage basis, at one dollar a cord, to persons who cut the previously marked trees themselves.

26,329 board feet of logs were sawed at the mill at a cost of \$9.31 a thousand. 10,280 board feet were cut in improvement thinnings while the rest of the logs, 16,329 board feet were cut in custom sawing. The price received for lumber was still very high, varying from \$65 to \$250 a thousand board feet according to quality and amount sold.

347 posts were cut and peeled. 156 posts were sold for highway purposes to the towns of Chaplin and Scotland. The average price received was 70¢ apiece. Weedings were made in sixteen



*Treating stock posts
of red pine with zinc
chloride 1950*



*Thinning made in
Red Pine plantation
1950. Planted in 1927
—obtained from 4
acres 1276 posts*



Latvian DP's with Superintendent Mr. Stocking working in apple orchard at Pine Acres Farm.

plantations especially in those that were planted in 1926. Thinnings were made in these plantations and posts taken from them.

146 Christmas trees, mostly white spruce, were sold from four compartments.

In 1946, thirty acres of woodland had been purchased from Jesse Burnham, on Route 6, and was included in the Hampton forest. In June of 1947 a timber survey was made of this tract by Harold Sweeton, who found that there were 35,329 board feet and 263 cords of wood.



1948

In order to make a boat landing, on the lake, nearer to the farmhouse, a dock was built on the west shore with an approach

through the red pine plantation below the barn, and so as to obtain a better view of the lake from the house a vista was opened up south of the barn.

As the maintenance of a few cows and pigs for some years had not proved economical, due chiefly to the poor layout for pasturage, I decided to sell them.

The red and white pine plantations planted in 1924, 1928, 1930 and 1932 along the southern end of the Martin road in the Chaplin forest, and adjacent to the Cedar Swamp road on the former Chapel land covering about 20 acres, had now reached merchantable size with trees large enough to be cut in profitable thinnings. Through Connwood Incorporated a cooperative forestry company recently formed, Jezierski, a buyer for tobacco tent poles was found, who with his own men would cut, haul and treat the poles, and pay a stumpage price of ten cents apiece. The trees to be removed, all red pine about 100 per acre, were marked and then cut by Jezierski for tobacco poles, fence posts, and pulpwood. The tobacco poles had to be twelve feet long and four inches in diameter at the smaller end and were hauled out to a nearby open field where they were wired together in groups of ten. These groups were put into barrels filled with zinc chloride where they were allowed to remain in this bath about one to two weeks, when the poles had thoroughly absorbed the acid salts. This treatment made the wood durable in the ground for at least ten years. 1,640 of these poles were sold to Jezierski. The thinnings yielded also seventy fence posts, 50 cords of pulpwood, and from the white pine plantation 2,729 board feet of lumber were cut by the Pine Acres men.

81 acres of the Phillips property on the south side of the State road was sold to Edson Stocking.

The Clancy farm of 104 acres was purchased from the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Co. This consisted



*American Egret
Pine Acres Farm 1948*



*Pine Acres 1948
Xmas Trees*

mostly of hardwoods and a timber estimate made by Harold Sweeton showed that it contained 178,024 board feet and 777 cords of wood.

During the summer 10 or 12 American egrets came to the lake and remained there until late in the fall. They were frequently seen walking slowly along the edge of the water looking for frogs or fish.

1,931 white and Norway spruce Christmas trees were sold in December from nine separate plantations, the largest number of Christmas trees yet to be sold from the farm.



1949

On Saturday, June 4, the Spring Field Meeting of The Connecticut Forest and Park Association was held at Pine Acres. Members began assembling about 10 a. m., and at 11 o'clock with a long line of 20 cars following, I led the procession to various points on the Riley road, stopping first at the dam at the south end



Wood-burning furnace with Manager Edion Stocking putting in soft wood slabs. It was found that this temperature-controlled unit which is stoked only once or twice a day, can heat 12 rooms and 2 baths on \$62.50 worth of wood a year.



Farm House 1950

of the lake and then at several Christmas tree plantations where I explained the forestry operations. A map showing the boundary lines of the property, the roads and lake and the various stopping places together with a description of the forestry work being carried on at these points was distributed to all the members. The cars returned to the farmhouse and then proceeded to places in the Chaplin section where forestry work in the red pine plantations was shown. On returning to the farm members ate their lunch on the lawn. Coffee was provided. About 80 members were present. After lunch, speaking from the front porch, I welcomed the members to the farm, recalling that this was the third meeting of the Association to be held at Pine Acres, previous meetings being held in 1928 and 1941. William P. Wharton, President of the Massachusetts Forestry Association then spoke giving an account of what that Association was trying to do. Mr. Filley, Vice President of the Connecticut Association presided as Mr. Howe the President could not be present.

The summer of 1949 was the driest ever experienced at Hampton; in fact all New England and New York had practically no rain to speak of from July to November. Wells dried up and gardens



View of Lake from House 1930

required daily watering and had it not been that the farm was equipped with an artesian well that afforded an endless supply of water, there would have been a very critical situation. The lake dropped lower and lower and the apple orchards especially suffered from lack of water. In the spring there had been a very heavy set of apple blossoms resulting in what soon turned out to be one of the heaviest apple crops we had ever had. Later, in August, the lack of rain began to cause the apples to drop. If the crop was to be saved the orchards in some way had to be watered. So it was decided to get long lengths of fire hose and a powerful pump and pump water from the lake to the nearest three orchards. This required over one-half mile of hose and two men to see that each tree in each orchard obtained a plentiful supply. For three weeks this operation was carried on until some abundant showers alleviated to some extent the drought, but the apples stopped dropping and the crop was saved.



Spruce plantation at Orchard Hill planted 1932

In the fall, the apples had attained a good size and color and there was a tremendous yield of between four and five thousand bushels.

During the last week of August, Mr. Stocking, the superintendent, learned that our neighbor Mr. Freiman, who owned a small farm adjoining Pine Acres and ran an antique shop, had made himself responsible for fifteen Latvian displaced people and had brought them to his farm in Hampton shortly after they had arrived in New York. A Latvian by birth he had resided in this country forty years, was a naturalized citizen and wanted to help his fellow countrymen. Needing assistance to weed the pine plantations, Mr. Stocking decided to employ some of these Latvians who were eager for work of any kind and for a week had them help in the plantations. He found that they were all hard, intelligent workers and got on well with the regular farm men, but could speak no English, only Russian or German. This did not prove to be too much of a handicap so when

they asked if they could come and live at the farm and obtain steady jobs he told two of the families that he could employ them and allow them to live in the apartment over the barn. There were twelve in the group, three families, and a single man who had become separated from his wife and son in Germany; the Kalnins who were better educated had two small children, a boy and girl, three and five years old; the Dienavs who had two boys, fourteen and nineteen years old, and the Simtnieks who had a daughter sixteen years old. The single man Straubergs had been a carpenter by trade, Simtnieks had been a mason, and the other two men had been farmers. However, they did not want to become separated and were much disturbed at the idea. Mr. Stocking decided, therefore, to bring all the families to the farm and quarter them in the barn apartment which consisted of six rooms and a bathroom. Of course, they were very crowded under these conditions, but they understood these were the best accommodations we had for them and were willing to be housed one family to a room. They had nothing but a few clothes and so the farm men very generously contributed various articles of furniture, beds, chairs, tables, bureaus and blankets to furnish their rooms. They proved to be splendid, hard, reliable workers and were willing to do anything they were asked. Not understanding English was some handicap, but Mr. Stocking made himself understood by signs. The oldest boy understood some English, while one of the farm men could talk German and another Russian and so act as interpreters. The women could work as hard as the men and were especially useful in sorting the apples. After the apples were picked they worked in the pine plantations, weeding out undesirable trees and trimming branches and removing brush. In December, when the demand for Christmas trees began to assume large proportions, the Latvians were employed in cutting the spruce trees and bringing them to the farm where they were loaded on to trucks of dealers who had purchased them and were distributing



Red Pine tobacco poles being treated in preservative 1951

them to various towns in Connecticut and Rhode Island. The sale of Christmas trees this year was the largest ever made at Pine Acres Farm. 2,300 were cut and sold with gross receipts averaging \$1 a tree and after expenses had been deducted leaving an operating profit of \$1,500.



1950

In January, the Dienavs Latvian family, decided to move to Willimantic. Both Mrs. Dienavs and their son, were working there and Mr. Dienavs wished to work in a factory. As John Neborsky decided to leave, thus vacating his house on the Cedar Swamp road, this made it possible for the Simtnieks family to move in there, and these changes made much more room in the barn apartment for the Kalnins and Straubergs who occupied the 2nd

floor and attic apartments respectively. A Pantex wood-burning furnace was installed in the garage of the farm to provide heat for the Latvian families who lived in the apartment above.

In October, The Garden Club of Hartford were entertained at the farm at lunch. I gave them a short talk and then Mr. Stocking took them around and showed them various forestry operations.

1950 marked the first year in which there was a profit, including operating and all overhead expenses, in forestry operations. The purchase by many surrounding towns of red pine highway fence posts, treated with pentachlorophenol, made it possible to make thinnings in a number of the plantations, established between 1926 and 1930. These posts had to be six feet, 6 inches long, five inches and six inches in diameter at the small end and peeled. As the bark comes off most easily in the spring, cutting and peeling was done at this time. Stock fence posts, for farm use, were also cut, but these



View of Lake and Forest

had only to be 2½ inches to five inches in diameter and 7 feet long and were treated with zinc chloride.

Pulpwood was also cut from the red pine plantations. In the Cartwright piece, a hardwood thinning was made from which 9,500 B. F. and 10 cords of wood were obtained. Many plantations were weeded, and from these 25,000 B. F. were obtained. The Christmas tree sales were more numerous than ever and 2,848 trees were sold.

The profits made were as follows:

Lumber	\$746.00	
Highway Posts	1,382.00	
Stock Posts	176.00	
Poles	259.00	
Christmas Trees	2,282.00	
Total Profit	\$4,845.00	
While there was a loss on cordwood of	\$167.00	
" " pulpwood "	81.00	248.00
		\$4,597.00
Forestry Overhead Expense	1,764.00	
Net Profit	\$2,833.00	

The apple crop was again a large one and over 3,000 bushels were obtained, all of which were sold at an average price of \$1.34 per bushel. The cost was 87¢ a bushel, making a gain of \$1,523.00.



1951

Ten years had elapsed since the last timber estimate was taken in 1940 so the time had arrived to again determine the amount of standing timber in Pine Acres Forest, and the growth in the ten year period.

I therefore asked Dr. Raymond Kienholz, former Connecticut State forester and now head of the forestry department at the University of Connecticut, if he would recommend some of his students to make this timber inventory. Four of his boys were completing their forestry course in February, had had some experience in timber estimating and were highly recommended by him to make this survey.

To start them off and occasionally supervise them, I had Harold Sweeton, who had made the estimate in 1940 but who could not be away from his home long enough to do the entire work this year, go out to Hampton and show the boys our system of running the timber estimate lines and making the timber measurements.

Winter, on account of snow and extreme cold weather, is not the best time of year to work in the woods but the boys were planning to take on more permanent forestry jobs in the late spring and so had to do the work at this time.

Paul Koelle, Charles Hodgson, John Olsen, and Joseph Sposta were the four students recommended by Dr. Kienholz. They started February 15 and were paid \$1.25 an hour. Harold Sweeton showed them how the previous lines had been run and what information was wanted regarding forest types and heights and diameters of trees, and made trips twice a week to Hampton to supervise them. On account of bad weather there were days when they could not work out-of-doors and so during February and March the work progressed rather slowly. 1700 acres is a large tract to cover and it was not until June that the field work and mapping were completed. They did an accurate and competent job.

There was much computation and figuring to be done but the boys had to leave for their more permanent jobs before they could complete this so Harold Sweeton carried on this work and finished the long task of computing the timber. The final result showed that on the whole tract there were 2,176,219 Board feet and 17,104

cords of wood. In the Hampton Forest 1,070,011 B. F. and 7,076 cords, Chaplin Forest 721,851 B. F. and 6,981 cords and Orchard Hill Forest 384,357 B. F. and 3,047 cords and the growth during the ten year period was 893,190 B. F. and 8,623 cords. On the forested area of 1,452 acres, there was an annual growth of 89,319 B. F. and 862 cords, or an average growth per acre per year of 61.5 B. F. and .59 cords.

During this period 200,000 B. F. of logs and 800 cords of wood, had been cut from the forest. Several of the pine and spruce plantations had attained merchantable size and so had added considerably to the amount of standing timber.

In the fall, improvement of the old wood road across Compartment 28, from the Orchard Hill Road to the Twiss Road was begun so as to make it passable for trucks and cars. Much filling in with stones and gravel was required and by the end of the year was only half completed.

The apple crop was smaller this year, only 2,063 bushels being harvested. As Mr. Foster, the wholesale dealer, had purchased his apples elsewhere he would not take ours and the result was that in order to make sales, Mr. Stocking had to take the apples to roadside stands and retail dealers. In this way he was able to dispose of 1,763 bushels at 20 different places.

A thinning was made in the Cartwright tract where the larger oak and hemlock trees were taken down to a minimum diameter limit of 14 DBA inches. Much hickory was cut for firewood, and ash which was quite prevalent in some places was left. 31,218 B. F. and 54½ cords of wood were cut from this compartment alone while during the year from the whole Pine Acres Forest 49,000 B. F. of lumber was cut and sawed at the mill and 77 cords of wood were cut and sold.

More of the red pine plantations planted between 1930 and 1935 were arriving at a merchantable size and highway posts, farm

stock posts, and tobacco poles were cut from them in light thinnings. The highway posts had to be peeled and were cut in the spring and early summer when the bark could be easily removed. They were then treated with Pentachlorophenol as a preservative. They were required to be 6 feet 6 inches long and 5-5½ inches in diameter at the top. 1,556 were cut and sold to various towns at \$1.35 apiece for smaller size and \$1.60 for larger.

The stock fence posts were 7 feet long and 2½-3 inches in diameter at the top. These did not have to be peeled and were treated with zinc chloride and chromated zinc chloride. The tops or small ends were immersed in the preservative and when reversed to be set in the ground the preservative would run down their entire length. These were used at Pine Acres as ordinary fence posts or sold to farmers for pasture fences. 1,785 were cut and sold at \$.55 to \$1.25 apiece.

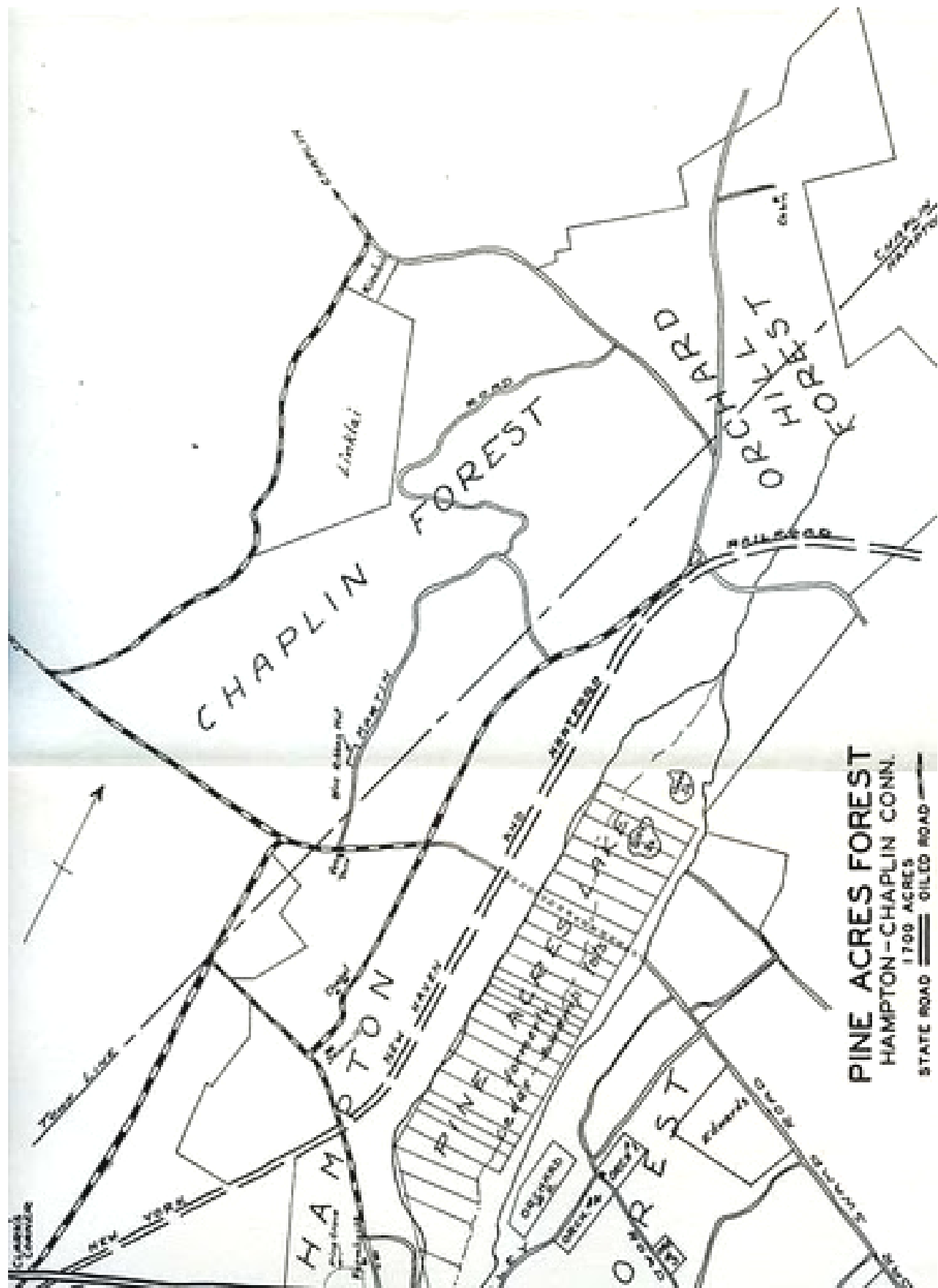
The tobacco poles were required to be 12 feet tall and 4 inches in diameter at the top and were treated with zinc chloride. 249 were cut and sold to tobacco growers who use them as supports for their shade-grown tobacco tents at \$1.35 apiece.

The severe windstorm of November 1950 had done much damage to some of the more exposed plantations of red and white pine, about ten acres being blown down. The red pine were cut into fence posts and the white pine into pulpwood. It required several months to clean up this damage and 50 cords of pulpwood were obtained from the white pine.

Due to an infestation of spruce gall in the White and Norway Spruce plantations this year many of the trees were made unfit for Christmas trees and consequently the number of trees that could be sold in December was considerably reduced from that of the previous year. However, we did manage to cut and sell 1,460 trees.

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PINE ACRES FOREST
 HAMPTON - CHAPLIN CONN.

1700 ACRES

STATE ROAD ——— OILED ROAD - - - -

