



FORESTRY MUTUAL NEWS

Newsletter of the Forestry Mutual Insurance Company

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HENRY W. CULP - THE MAN LEADING CULP LUMBER

When you walk into the office of Henry W. Culp, Jr., there is no mistaking that you are about to meet an outdoorsman since your initial steps bring you face-to-face with a growling, nine-foot grizzly bear flanked by two mountain rams. The bear is intimidating enough to stop you in your tracks.

"That's an old mountain grizzly that came from Alaska in 1975," stated Culp, the man behind Culp Lumber Company in New London, North Carolina that specializes in the production of Southern Pine Lumber since 1950. "The bear was sort of a special treat for me."

In the details of the hunt, one gets a real picture of the man who despite being 83 years young, comes to the grounds each day not just to make an appearance, but "hopefully to help the bottom line."

"I was hunting with an outfitter in the mountains East of Anchorage," explained Culp. "The outfitter knew where this bear was because he had seen him flying over coming in from Anchorage sitting over a moose he had killed. We drew a map on the back of a match cover where we thought the bear was. It took us a good while to get to the bear. He was a tough customer."

So is Henry Culp.

There is a rumor, not that anyone will fess up to being the original source, that salesmen who have come calling on Mr. Culp have often commented after the meeting that they were not sure who the tougher bear was, the stuffed one behind them or the live one sitting behind the desk.

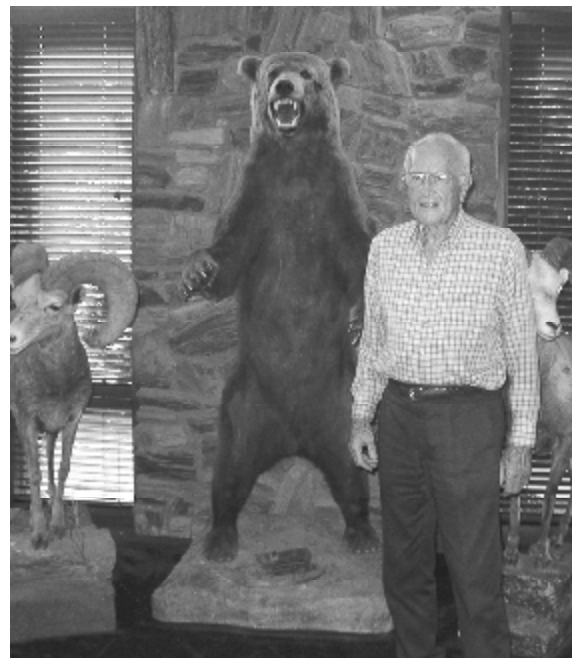
Believe it or not, Henry has heard this story before. How does he respond?

"I don't know," stated Culp with a smile. "I'll let them have their own say on that."

A Valentine's Day baby, Henry Culp was born on February 14, 1922. The Culp Family Tree has roots that go all the way back to the formation of the town of New London and its forest products roots are nearly as deep.

"As I understand it, my grandfather, John L. Culp, started cutting cedar trees and selling cedar logs," stated Culp. "That had to be in the late 1800's. My dad (Henry W. Culp, Sr.) sort of followed in to that but then he branched off into portable sawmilling with hardwood and pine. He started this company in 1925."

After finishing high school at age 16, Henry followed the path of his older sister and went to Duke University where he earned his undergraduate degree in Business Management in 1942. Upon graduation, Culp enlisted in the United States Air Force.



Henry W. Culp stands in front of a grizzly bear he shot on a hunting trip in Alaska in 1975. Henry has been at charge at Culp Lumber since 1950.

"I didn't get very far," explained Culp. "Right after we got in, they had more cadets than they could handle. They sent us from one field to another. All we ever did was cut grass and scrub runways."

During his three years, Culp and his fellow cadets shuffled around the country to different airfields. While serving his country was important to him, military protocol was not exactly the ideal lifestyle for Henry Culp.

"I really hated to be told what to do by some guy who didn't have as much sense as I thought that I had," explained Culp. "But in the military, you have to take that."

When World War II ended, Culp recalls when "They just opened the gates and told everyone to go home. I said, good day, that's it for me."

Henry Culp rejoined his father in New London in 1945 where his dad was still operating a portable sawmill in the woods where he would stack and dry the lumber. He even had a portable planer that he dragged along. A few years later, the Culp's established a wood concentration yard on the current location of today's sawmill where green lumber was brought in, air dried and dressed. In these days, Culp Lumber was an operation of about a dozen employees and nearly everything was done by hand. Today, Culp Lumber employs 90 people.

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Culp Lumber...(from page 1)

With the passing of Henry Culp, Sr., in 1950, Henry stepped in to a new role as the company's leader. While the senior Culp was comfortable with using muscle, carts and tractors, Henry Jr. sought to modernize his operations.

"The first thing that I did was buy a forklift truck," stated Culp.

Over the years, Henry has witnessed how hydraulics and computers have transformed his family's company, and he has taken the appropriate steps to upgrade his operations with a patient, cautious approach that any good hunter would employ. Prior to making investment, Henry does his homework. You wouldn't expect anything less from a Duke graduate.

"He doesn't rely on other people's opinions," stated Amy Culp-Shelton, who is Hank's daughter and has served as the company's secretary & treasurer since 2000 after spending ten years as a fourth grade teacher. "He does all the research himself. And then, he asks the questions. In most cases, he already knows the answer."

That certainly explains the reaction of some of those salesmen!

Henry always weighs the pay-back before installing new equipment. Will it improve the operations? Will it make it easier on personnel and management? But just as importantly, has it been in operation in another mill?

"We are not much to be guinea pig for a new piece of equipment,"

stated Culp. "Typically, there are a lot of headaches in the first of anything. When we are getting ready to make a change at the mill, we do a lot of visiting."

The most significant modernization of Culp Lumber came in 1984 when the company installed a twin bandmill sharp chain system for primary log breakdown. To keep pace with the twin bandmill, the company added an additional kiln to the two already in operation, a new planer mill in 1991 and an optimum bucking system in 1996. The mill expanded again in 1998 with the addition of a new head rig and 36-inch log carriage. In 2001, an additional dry kiln was installed followed by a lineal edger system in 2002.

"I have some of my friends walk up to me and say, 'You know, your dad wouldn't believe what's going right here if he could see this.' I said, 'No he wouldn't, but to tell you the truth, 20 years ago, I wouldn't have believed it myself.'"

Through all the technological advances over the years, Culp Lumber now cuts in an hour, some 40,000 feet, what it took Henry and his father a week to produce back in the late 1940's.

Today, Culp Lumber is one of the top 200 mills of its type in the nation. The company could probably improve its production and raise its standing in that listing if it was to go to two shifts, but that is something that does not fit the Culp style.

"For whatever reason, we have never decided to go to two shifts," stated Henry Culp. "We have been able to make a satisfactory go of it with one shift and in the long run, I think it is better for us."

Hank Culp, the company's vice-president, is one of Henry's two sons and has been with the company full-time since 1970. In his role, Hank oversees the day-to-day operations of the facility, ultimately creating a safe and productive environment. In 2004, Culp Lumber was named Forestry Mutual's Sawmill of the Year for its safety record.

"We try to approach every job from a safety as-

(continued on back page)

THE SAWSHOP

by Bryan Wagner
Chainsaw Trainer for
Forestry Mutual



BUCKSAW SAFETY

Technology has created the modern era of logging. Inventions have allowed us to lessen our exposure to this risk and our profession has benefited greatly. Most agree that our profession has become a safer one, but we must not be lulled by statistics! There have been losses due to mechanical felling equipment in recently and most of the accidents occurred while loggers were working too close to moving equipment. Other incidents resulted from lock-out-tag-out issues. Hopefully, through training and education these losses will be minimized.

Specifically, we have seen a rise in bucksaw losses. Mechanical log bucking has been a tremendous gift to our profession. Eliminating ground personnel has reduced a large portion of the risk. History remembers multiple loggers manually bucking timber at the deck while the loader was being operated. This was a very risky job before the introduction of the mechanized bucksaw. Remember that if we reduce risk, we lessen the chance for an accident.

The bucksaw is a powerful and efficient tool on the logging job. While the bucksaw reduces the risk on our jobs, it can be a very dangerous tool when a malfunction occurs. Bucksaw safety can be broken down into two areas: set-up and maintenance. The positioning the bucksaw is very important. Maintenance is also very important when using the bucksaw. Recent deaths and injuries have occurred when employees were struck with objects thrown from the saw. Most have happened as a result of poor a set-up. Catastrophic injury or death can result from saw chain failure, most often a result of maintenance.

SAFE SET-UP

- The bucksaw should be set up pointing away from the busy deck or landing area.
- The loader operator must be "out of line" of the bar and chain unit.
- Loader doors and windows must remain shut while the saw is being operated.

- Never engage the saw if machinery or people enter the "No Zone".
- All lock-out-tag-out procedures shall be followed during maintenance times.

BAR & CHAIN MAINTENANCE

The bucksaw is basically an overgrown chainsaw. Basic bar and chain maintenance should be followed to avoid saw chain failure that could result in an injury. A broken link of 11 BC chain proves to be a very lethal projectile. If the chain doesn't break, there is no accident!

- Make sure the saw chain is sharp. A dull chain causes undo wear to other chain components, mainly the sprockets and guide bars. Above all it is inefficient.
- Frequently inspect all chain components, which include rivets, drive links and side straps. Check for excessive wear, cracks or broken rivets. The chain must be put out of service until repairs can be made.
- Inspect drive sprockets and roller sprockets. Worn sprockets cause damage to drive links and the chassis of the saw chain.
- Inspect the guide bar for wear. Bar rails must be true. File or grind burrs from the bar. A true bar will allow the saw chain to cut straight.
- Use a good quality bar and chain oil. This will help to reduce friction and add to the life of the bar and chain. Do not use discarded motor oil.
- All repairs are to be made with the machine locked out and tagged out.

By having an increased awareness and stressing maintenance, we should see favorable results on bucksaw safety issues. We will continue to enjoy the benefits of modern technology in the woods. We must add to the technology by being smart and make the right decisions.

For in-the-woods training, contact Bryan Wagner at (800) 849-7788. Training is provided free of charge to Forestry Mutual policyholders. Continuing education credits are awarded after training. Be safe. ■



Three generations of Culp's: (l-r) Henry Culp, Amy Culp-Shelton and Hank Culp pose for a photograph outside the New London facility.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HAND PROTECTION

By Jimmy McCraney, Safety Trainer for Forestry Mutual

Because your hands play a role in virtually every task that you perform, they are usually taken for granted and not protected as well as they should be. It is important to remember that almost all hand and finger injuries can be prevented.

Engineering Controls

Engineering controls, such as machine guards, are priority one in preventing hand and finger injuries.

- The cutting actions of knives, saws, drilling machines, lathes or milling machines can cut fingers and hands – or even cut them off.
- Punching and shearing machines like power presses, metal cutters or shears can crush hands, break bones, and amputate hands and fingers.
- Rotating shafts like cams, couplings, flywheels and spindles can catch, mangle or break fingers.
- In-running shafts, such as nip points on belts, chains, pulleys, grinders, conveyors or clutches can catch, mangle or break hands.
- Pointed objects like screwdrivers, knives, staples or splinters can puncture the skin.

Guards should be installed on any machine where hands could possibly come in contact with the point of operation or with moving parts.

Another engineering control is the lock-out-tag-out. Before any work is done on a machine, it must be placed in a zero energy state through machine specific lock-out procedures. Procedures must identify all hazards (electric, hydraulic, mechanical, air, etc.) required to completely de-energize the machinery prior to maintenance. Locks must be installed on breaker boxes and valve covers to ensure energy source remains locked-out. Keys to locks should remain with the person who locked-out the energy source at all times.

Tools/Equipment

Engineering controls make a valuable contribution to safety, but they are not enough. Personnel must also understand the hazards in the work area and make mitigation of those hazards part of their routine.

Some tips to keep in mind for hand safety:

- Apply lock-out-tag-out procedures prior to maintenance.
- Always replace guards after maintenance and leave machine guards in place during machine operation.
- Do not wear gloves, loose cuffs, rings, watches or other jewelry when you work with machinery in operation. They could get caught and pull your hand into danger.
- Use a push stick to feed materials into moving machinery.
- Use brushes to sweep up metal or wood chips.
- Always select the proper hand tool for the job and use it correctly.
- Make sure tools are in good working condition before using them.
- Anticipate what may happen if you or the tool you are using were to slip.

Protective Gloves

Protective equipment is an effective defense against injuries. It's important to emphasize that gloves can be a hazard if worn around moving machinery. No glove can provide protection from all hazards, so proper selection of the right type of glove is a must.

- Heat or cold usually calls for insulated gloves. If the hazard is radiant heat, the fabric should be reflective. Leather is effective against hot surface and other fabrics may be adequate for moderate heat or cold.
- Electricity requires specially tested, non-conductive rubber gloves with insulated liners. Do not use gloves designed for chemical protection, as they are not effective for electrical hazards.
- Chemicals pose a variety of hazards, and the correct glove is critical. You have to select a glove made of a material that truly offers protection against the chemical in question.

Even when all the precautions are followed, there may still be injuries. Remember, a medical professional should check any hand injury because your hands play a role in virtually every task you perform.■



SAFETY ALERT

by J.J. Lemire

Loss Control Representative
for Forestry Mutual

LIGHTNING STORM SAFETY PROCEDURES

Loggers face many challenges each day as they go about their jobs. Sudden violent and unpredictable weather can sometimes place ground personnel in dangerous situations. Every second of every hour of every day, lightning strikes the earth 100 times. Throughout much of the southern United States, lightning strikes some 20 to 30 times per square mile each year. Lightning causes more fatalities than any other act of nature, except floods. Loggers are often exposed to lightning. While there is no fail-safe defense from a lightning strike, early recognition of the lightning hazard and an awareness of defensive options, will provide a reasonably high level of safety.

RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT THE LIGHTNING HAZARD

If loggers can see lightning or hear thunder, they are at risk. Many lightning casualties occur before the wind and rain of an approaching thunderstorm actually reach the logging site. When a thunderstorm is in the general area, but not overhead, a lightning threat can exist even when clear sky is visible. Recent studies show that successive lightning strikes can be as much as six to eight miles apart. Immediate defensive action is recommended when lightning is indicated within this range. By referencing the time in seconds from seeing the lightning strike to hearing the accompanying thunder, a logger can estimate lightning's distance. A "lightning-to-thunder" time of five seconds indicates that the strike was approximately one mile away. Ten seconds = two miles, etc. Thus, if the time delay between the lightning flash and the sound of thunder is less than 30 seconds (6 miles), the logger should immediately seek a safe shelter.

TAKE DEFENSIVE ACTION

The National Lightning Safety Institute recommends following defensive actions when lightning threatens a logging site.

- *Seek shelter in the cab of a crew truck, log truck or logging machine with a metal canopy. Taking shelter in the cab of a trailer-mounted knuckleboom loader is not advised, as the height of that position makes it more vulnerable to a lightning strike. Shut down the machine or truck, close the doors, sit with hands in lap, wait out the storm. Do not touch door or window handles, radio dials, CB radio, gearshift, steering wheel or any metallic object connected to the outside of the vehicle or machine, as lightning striking the machine will be carried to ground mostly on the metal outer surface. Under no circumstances, during close-in lightning, should an operator step off his machine to the ground in an attempt to move to other shelter, as this creates a dangerous "dual pathway" for lightning to seek the ground. **IMPORTANT:** Equipment or vehicles without a metal canopy are not safe. Rubber tires alone provide no safety from lightning. Thus, a worker sitting in the back of a crew truck with a canvas roof has little protection from a lightning strike.*

If the worker is on the ground and cannot take shelter in a vehicle or machine, he should move to a ditch or other low ground under trees of uniform height and assume a low crouching position. He should avoid high ground, standing water, open spaces, metallic objects and solitary tall trees. Workers should not cluster together but should spread out 15 to 20 feet apart. If a worker is struck by lightning, immediately administer appropriate first aid (including CPR) if the victim is not breathing, then transport to a medical facility. Contrary to common folklore, lightning strike victims do not retain an electrical charge and are safe to touch immediately after being struck. Eighty percent of lightning strike victims survive the initial shock but often suffer burns, impaired eyesight and loss of hearing.

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Culp Lumber...(from page 2)

pect,” explained Hank Culp. “Every new hire goes through a safety meeting and we have four company wide safety meetings a year in addition to monthly meeting within specific areas of the plant.”

While the apple did not fall far from the tree in terms of work ethic, Hank does recognize the differences between him and his dad in terms of management styles.

“I would say the styles are more complimentary,” stated Hank. “I am not as forceful as he is, but, we both have the same end result in mind, but there are always two different ways to get there.”

While they may cross paths a few times, Hank appreciates his father’s knowledge.

“Usually, the questions that I don’t have answers for, he has answers for,” explained Hank. “The things I run up against that I don’t know the answer to, normally during his experiences, he has run up against it, and he has a good answer for it.”

At one time, Hank and his dad hunted annually along the Rocky Mountain range, hitting spots from Mexico all the way up to Alaska, but their mountain hunting has been

limited since Henry had both of his knees replaced in 1994.

“The thing about mountain hunting is that it’s hard on your heart and lungs to go up and it’s harder on your knees to come down,” explained Henry Culp.

His mountain hunting days may be behind him, but Henry has no plans of retiring.

“I may not last long anyway, but I don’t think I would last long if I sat at home all the time,” explained Henry, who still goes home most afternoons to have lunch with Jewel, his wife of 60 years.

When questioned to reflect back on what has been the most enjoyable aspect of his career, one could see the eyes of a young aviator.

“I guess my favorite thing about being an independent business man is that you don’t have to answer to anybody else,” reasoned Henry. “Of course, that puts additional responsibilities on you too.”

For the record, Henry Culp, the granddaddy of the Culp family, does have more sense than most. The proof is in the facility that he and his father never envisioned when they were manually unloading lumber off a cart pulled by a tractor. ■

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