

drying on the yard. Its stave mill could cut 15,000 barrel staves daily. The Bowman-Hicks tram r was fifteen miles long to its "log front," where three locomotives and 67 log cars brought several t loads daily to the log pond. The "stumpage reserve" (uncut logs) was sufficient to last five years, the owners would need to locate more if the mill were to survive.

There were also 125 tenant houses at Loring, also one school, one church for whites and another Negroes, one dispensary, and one commissary with a \$21,000 stock of groceries and merchand The company paid out monthly wages of \$21,000 to its 300 employees. Another quote noted that:

*"...The company has furnished for its employees an amusement hall and fitted it up. The club has a pianola (player piano), which allows them to have music when they so desire. Dances have been quite the order of the day this past winter...."*

Loring also had a tennis club and court, a baseball club and diamond; a Woodmen of The W lodge, organized in 1902 with 25 members; and an I. F. F. Card (playing) Club. <sup>5</sup>

By May, 1908, the Bowman-Hicks sawmill had already experienced a considerable turnover of personnel. Burlingame resigned his position in 1905 to accept other employment in Arkansas, was replaced as superintendent by B. M. Musser. Other employees included J. M. Hughes, assis superintendent; E. M. Taylor, sawmill foreman; J. H. Roscoe, planer foreman; E. L. Gossett, y foreman-shipping clerk; M. M. Robertson, master mechanic; John Deming, woods foreman; A. Bryan, cashier; A. E. Hendrickson, timekeeper; and Dr. W. C. Middleton, mill physician. <sup>6</sup>

With only five years of timber in reserve, the Loring sawmill may not have experienced a long life s unless the owners were able to locate additional stands of long leaf pine. At the latest, the mill v certainly cut out by the early or middle 1920's. The Louisiana road map of today does not even Loring as a village, indicating that it has returned to ghost town status. Probably today, an abando cemetery and a few concrete foundations, covered with pine needles, are the only evidences le that once thriving sawmill town of yesteryear. And on most any quiet day at sunset, provided one c his ear to windward, there might still be heard an echo of the big band saw's screech, drifting with breeze across some distant horizon.

## FOOTNOTES:

1 "Gulf Lumber Co. at Stables, La.," Beaumont Enterprise, June 30, 1907, p. 6, col. 1.

2 E. W. Wise, Tall Pines II: A History of Vernon Parish, La. and Its People (Sulphur: 1988), p. 41.

3 "Bowman-Hicks Mill at Loring Burns," Beaumont Enterprise, Feb. 25, 1906, p. 2, cols 3-5; "Lumber at Lor La.," Beaumont Enterprise, May 15, 1905, p. 4, cols. 7-8; Kansas City Southern Sawmill Circular No. 52-A, Kai City, Feb. 1, 1901; "Lumber Mills of Louisiana," Southern Industrial and Lumber Review (Sept. 1906), p. 29; "I on the Kansas City Southern," Beaumont Journal, Oct. 30, 1904.

4 "Loring, La. Notes," Beaumont Enterprise, May 24, 1908, p. 13.

5 "Lumber at Loring, La.," Beaumont Enterprise, May 15, 1905, p. 4,cols. 7-8.

6 "Loring, La. Notes," Ibid., May 24, 1908, p. 13.