

## 226,517,125 TREE SEEDLINGS AND STILL COUNTING

During the Summer of 1933, a decision was made by the U.S. Forest Service to establish a forest tree nursery near Manistique to supply their planting needs for the Eastern Upper Peninsula. The eighty-six acre site selected was located between the Indian and Manistique Rivers, just outside the city limits of Manistique. The property was part of a city-owned park that was not developed. The City of Manistique decided to donate the site to the Forest Service to be used as a tree nursery. Surveying and layout work was accomplished during August, with land clearing and ground preparation work starting immediately afterward.

During the Fall and Winter of 1933, a three-room office building, a large warehouse, and the irrigation system were constructed by CWA and CCC labor.

The first crop was sown in the Spring of 1934, mainly red pine and jack pine with lesser amounts of white pine, white spruce, sugar maple, white ash, and white cedar.

A large increase in production of tree seedlings was required during the CCC era because of the accelerated planting program on the National Forests. The Forest Service needed to expand the nursery at Manistique to meet this need. The only way to increase the size of the nursery was to obtain more land from the city-owned park. A proposition to donate an additional fifty-four acres to the U.S. Forest Service for development into an addition to the nursery was placed on a special ballot and submitted to the Manistique City voters on March 4, 1935. The proposition passed overwhelmingly, 994 to 28.

In the Fall of 1935, work started on a new warehouse, a residence, and irrigation system for the addition utilizing CCC labor. This expansion work was finished in the Summer of 1936.

The Manistique Federal Nursery was dedicated on July 16, 1936, and officially renamed the Thomas B. Wyman Federal Nursery in honor of the man known as the father of forest conservation in Upper Michigan. He was the founder of Wyman School of the Woods, started in Munising in 1908. Mr. Wyman had a strong influence in directing public interest in forest conservation and management in the Upper Peninsula. Unfortunately the school was forced to close when the **greater part of** the student body was drafted into service during World War I and the school never reopened. At the **time of the dedication** after the major expansion, Wyman Nursery was the largest Federal Nursery in the United States.

It is impossible to overstate the important role that the CCC's played in developing the nursery. They were involved from the very beginning cutting down trees and brush for land clearing, grubbing out the stumps, leveling the soil and preparing it for seedbeds, digging trenches and laying 7,750 feet of underground watermains for the irrigation system, installing 49,200 feet of overhead irrigation pipelines, building 2.8 miles of internal service roads, and the construction of seven well-built buildings.

Men from several different CCC companies worked at the nursery at various stages of development and/or operation. The 669th Company, CCC, Camp Steuben contributed the most manpower. During the Summer of 1936, a side camp was established directly across the Indian River from the nursery to eliminate the transporting of men the 22 miles from Camp Steuben. The enrollees were first transferred across the river in small flat-bottom boats, later a foot bridge was constructed.

During the later part of the 30's, the demand for nursery stock began to decline. The large planting program was reducing the backlog of barren land that needed reforestation. The Depression was easing, removing the primary reason for the CCC program. The CCC Camps started to close.

When the United States entered World War II, it created a manpower shortage. The planting program on Forest Service lands was greatly reduced, thereby almost eliminating the need for the tree seedlings produced at the nursery. A decision was made in the Fall of 1943, to close the nursery for the duration of the war.

The Forest Service never reopened the nursery. They were able to meet their planting stock needs from their other two nurseries, Chittenden Nursery near Wellston and Tourney Nursery at Watersmeet in the Upper Peninsula.

The Department of Conservation (predecessor of the Department of Natural Resources) desired to use the nursery for growing tree seedlings for planting on State Forest lands in the Upper Peninsula. The State Conservation Commission approved the leasing of Wyman Nursery from the Forest Service in December, 1949.

During May, 1951, the first nursery crop under Department of Conservation management was seeded with a production goal of five million. Red pine, white pine, jack pine, white spruce and black spruce were the tree species sown.

Production trends built **up and reached a maximum production** of 6,956,000 in 1962. It tapered off after that peak to **an**

average annual production between three to four million seedlings during the 60's and 70's.

A special study committee was appointed in the Fall of 1980, to examine the role of the State nurseries and to review the entire reforestation picture in Michigan. The committee included representatives from the commercial nursery industry, forest industry, State Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Michigan State University.

At that time the Department of Natural Resources operated two forest nurseries, Wyman Nursery at Manistique and Southern Michigan Nursery near Brighton. Total production for the two nurseries was running around ten million seedlings annually. Stock produced in excess of State needs was available to the public at the cost of production. The committee met four times. It came up with basically three recommendations:

- 1) Production from State nurseries should be for use on State lands only. Private nursery industry can supply the demand from private landowners.

Phase-out seedling production at Southern Michigan nursery and convert it into a seed orchard/tree improvement facility.

- 3) Increase production and modernize facilities as necessary at Wyman nursery.

The recommendations of the committee were accepted by top management in the Department of Natural Resources. Spring, 1984 was the last season that tree seedlings were available from the State for sale to the public. Currently Wyman's entire annual production of five million seedlings are utilized for the reforestation program on State Forests in the Upper Peninsula and the north one-half of the Lower Peninsula. Five million tree seedlings are enough to plant over five thousand acres of land.

Growing the seedlings in the nursery and the outplanting of them on a properly prepared site are very important links in establishing a productive stand after a clearcut harvest in the pine forest type. Most of Wyman Nursery's production is jack pine and red pine. Recent research by the U.S. Forest **Service has** shown that on an average site, red pine in the Lake States is up to 25% more productive than the southern **pinus growing in** the southern region of the United States. With the forests in Michigan having an increasingly more important position in our economic present and future, it is vital that our forest be productive. Wyman State Forest Nursery continues to play an important role in maintaining that productivity.

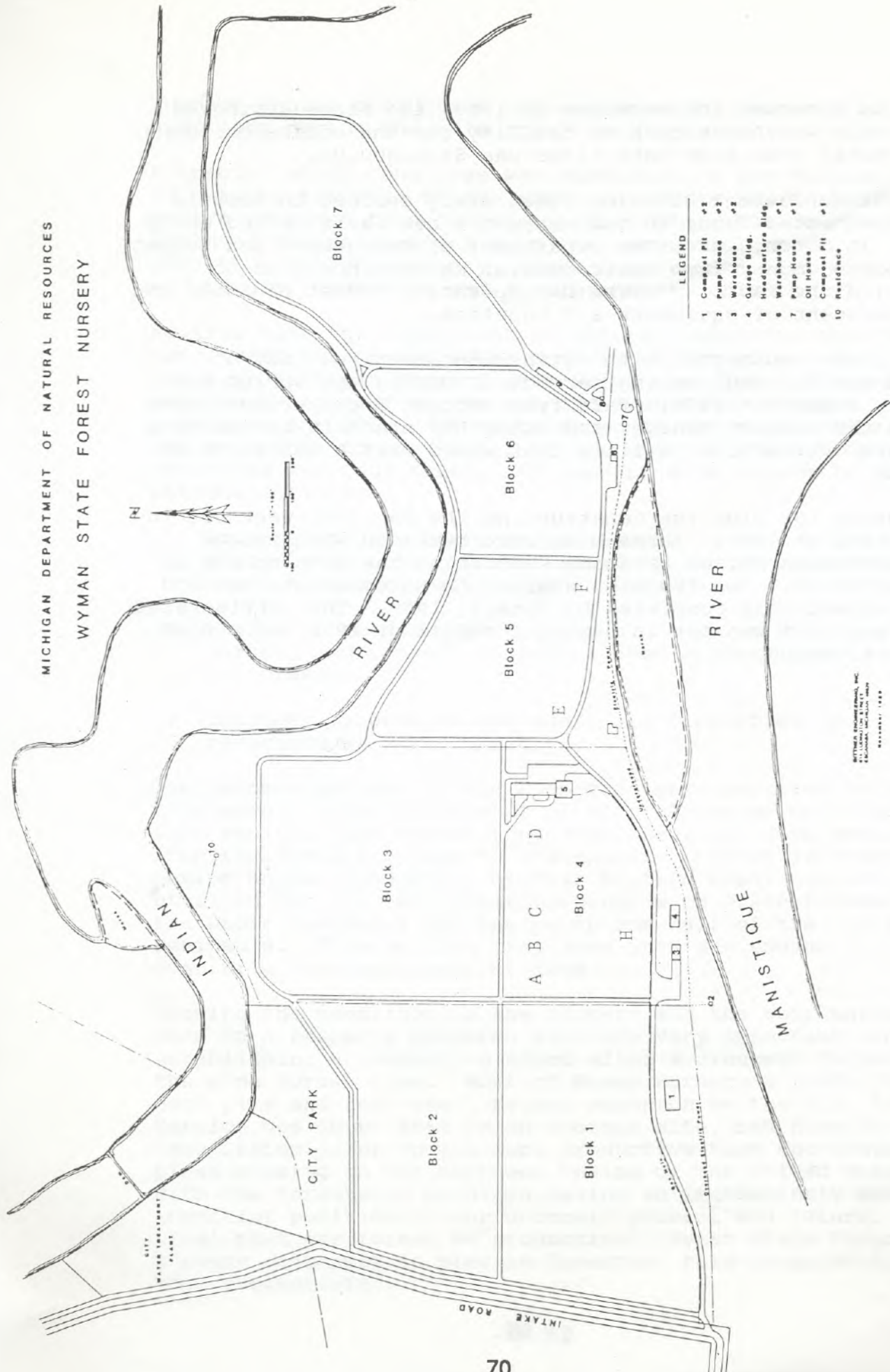
During November and December of 1987, two fires destroyed the main warehouse/packing facility and the office building. The total loss from both fires was \$406,000.00.

Forest Management Division immediately decided to rebuild and requested funds to reconstruct a new facility and equip it. In March, 1988, the Department of Management and Budget allocated money from their special maintenance fund to rebuild the facility. The DNR operating budget financed the replacement of equipment and supplies.

The State contracted with Bittner Engineering, Inc. of Escanaba for engineering services. During the Spring and early Summer of 1988, staff from Bittner Engineering worked with the Nursery Manager and other DNR staff in designing a modern, attractive facility that would meet a multitude of needs.

Requests for bids for constructing the facility went out in the Fall of 1988. Three bids were received with Pascoe Construction Co. of Escanaba submitting the winning bid of \$284,850.00. Construction started on November 3, 1988 and was essentially completed by June 1, 1989. The refrigerated storage unit was put in during the Fall of 1990, at a cost of \$68,000.00.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
 WYMAN STATE FOREST NURSERY



LEGEND

1	Compost Pit	#2
2	Pump House	#2
3	Warehouse	#2
4	Garage Bldg.	
5	Headquarters Bldg.	#1
6	Warehouse	#1
7	Pump House	#1
8	Oil House	
9	Compost Pit	#1
10	Residence	

WYMAN STATE FOREST NURSERY  
 DESIGNED BY W. H. HARRIS, 1928

## WYMAN NURSERY TOUR

## Stop A Hybrid Aspen in Block 4

- 50,000 hybrid aspen grown in #288 tray deep
- hybrid is a cross between *Populus tremuloides* X *P. tremula* (Swedish aspen)
- grown for 8 weeks in greenhouse, C. Raker & Son, at cost of .031/2 apiece
- transplanted by hand week of June 22, cost of transplanting about .011/2 apiece

## Stop B 2-0 Jack Pine in Block 4

- sowed Spring 91, stock is in second growing year
- 944,000 seedlings, sections 2,3  
630,000 seedlings, secs. 8,9, &10
- will be lifted next Spring
- production costs \$50/thousand

## Stop C Soil Pit, Don Boyer

## Stop D Refrigerated Trailers, Bill Mahalik

- Dept. has 5 trailers for transporting seedlings & storage at planting site
- all were purchased used, \$6,000 to \$6,500 per unit.

## Stop E New Seeding in Block 5

- sections 1 & 2 sown to red pine on June 2nd
- sections 3,4, & 5 originally sown to jack pine June 3rd
- noticed germination in jack pine by June 14th
- very little germination in red pine by June 22nd
- weekend of June 20, 21, & 22 very windy and cold, temperature got down into 20°
- irrigated both Sat. & Sun. to try to control wind erosion in new seeding

Stop E Continued

- by July 1st new seeding of jack pine looked quite poor
- decision was made on July 8th to resow jack pine
- we resowed jack pine on July 13th

Stop F 3-0 Red pine in Block 5

- sowed Spring 90, stock is in third growing season
- 318,000 seedlings
- 3-0 red pine used mainly for machine planting
- production costs \$85/thousand

Stop G New Pumphouse

- constructed Spring 91
- Manistique Papers are no longer utilizing their dam, gates are left open
- level of river dropped below intakes for former two pumphouses
- because of this, the papermill paid for the construction of new pumphouse

Stop H Equipment Demonstration

- Lundeby Plant Lifter
- Fobro Bed Former & Basimid Fumigant Applicator
- Truax Acorn Planter
- Holland Transplanter (plug)
- Holland Acorn Planter