



onestar press a.l. steiner stop



STOP
onestar press



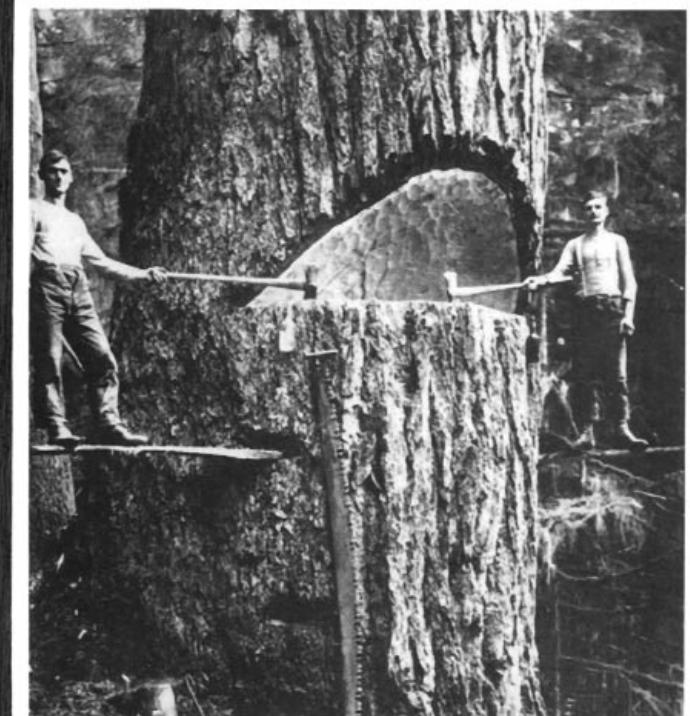
STOP
onestar press

A.L. Steiner

- i: Tree**
- ii: Pulp**
- ii: Product**

TiMBER!

RALPH W. ANDREWS



TOIL AND TROUBLE IN THE BIG WOODS

By the author of "This Was Logging," "This Was Sawmilling,"
"The Glory Days of Logging" and others.









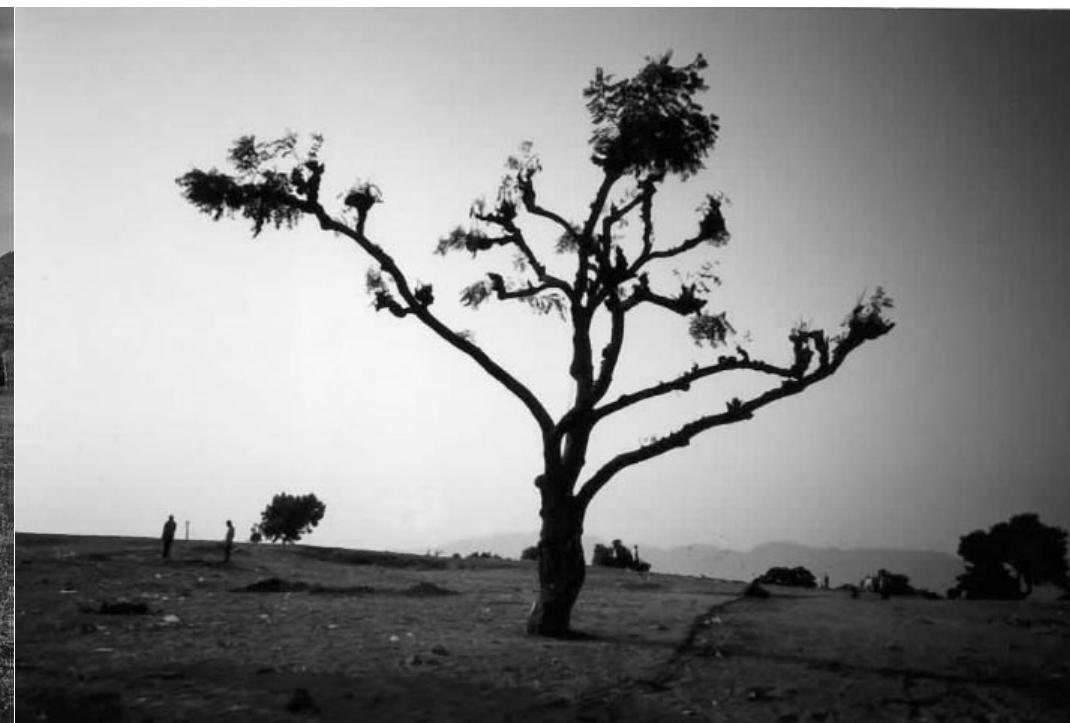




















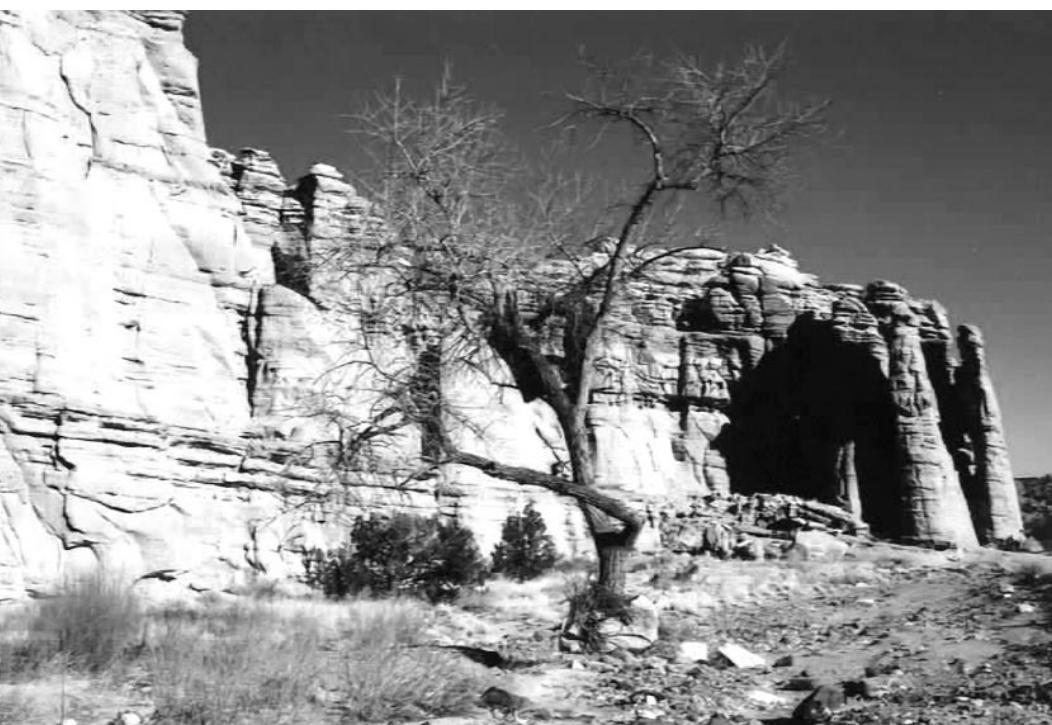


























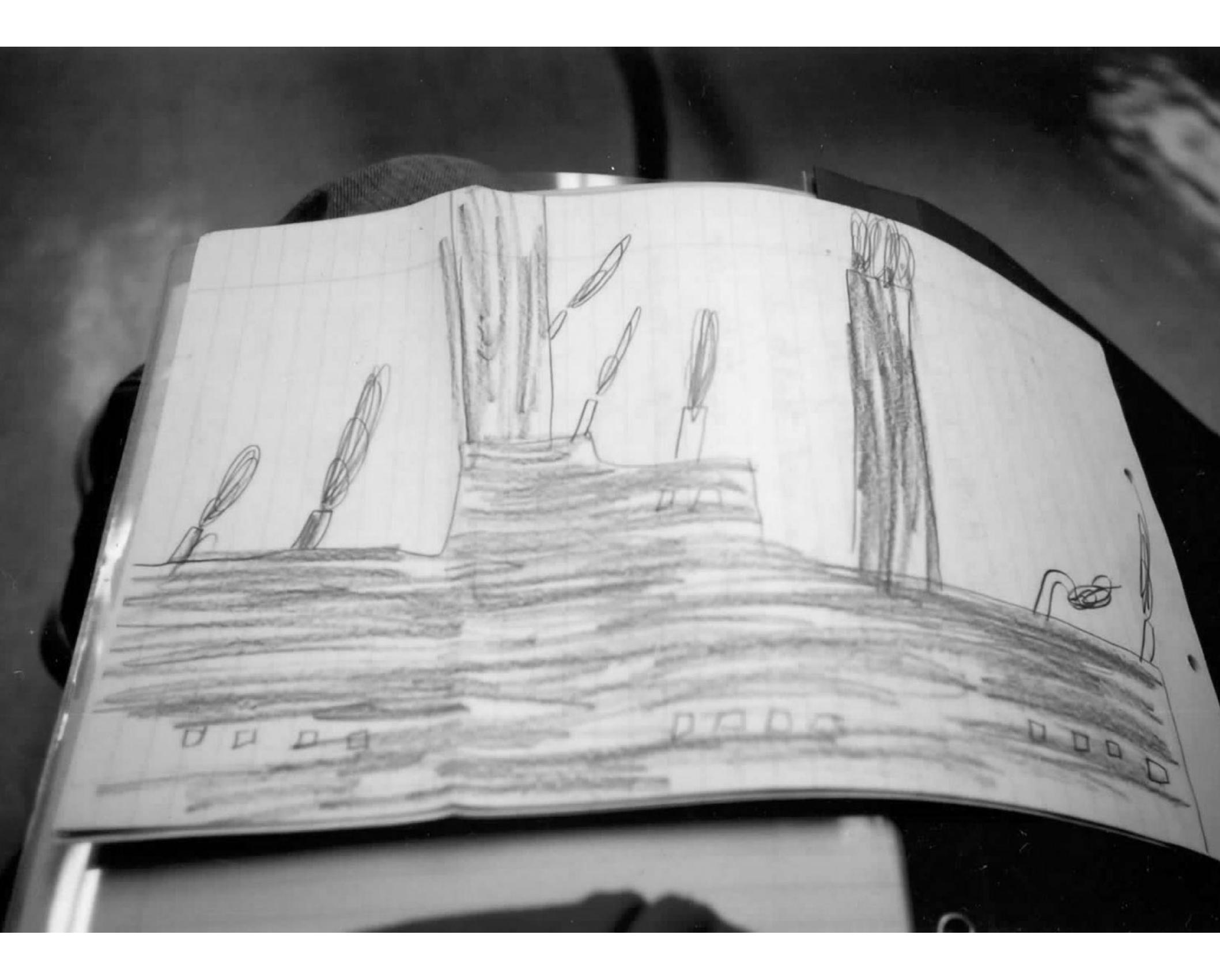










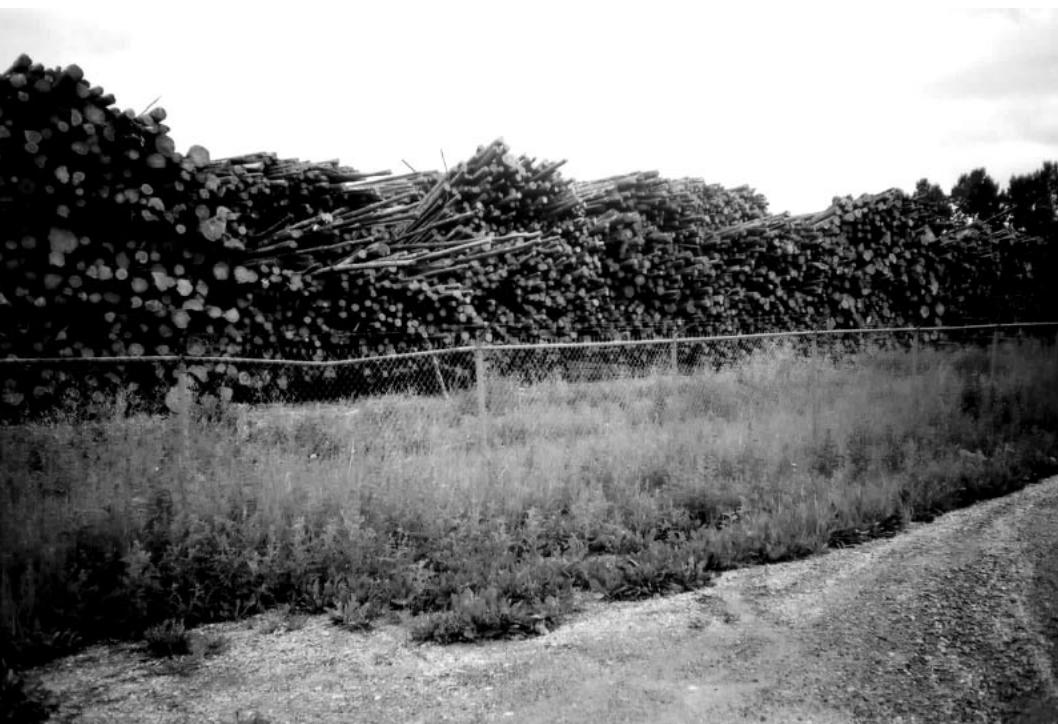
















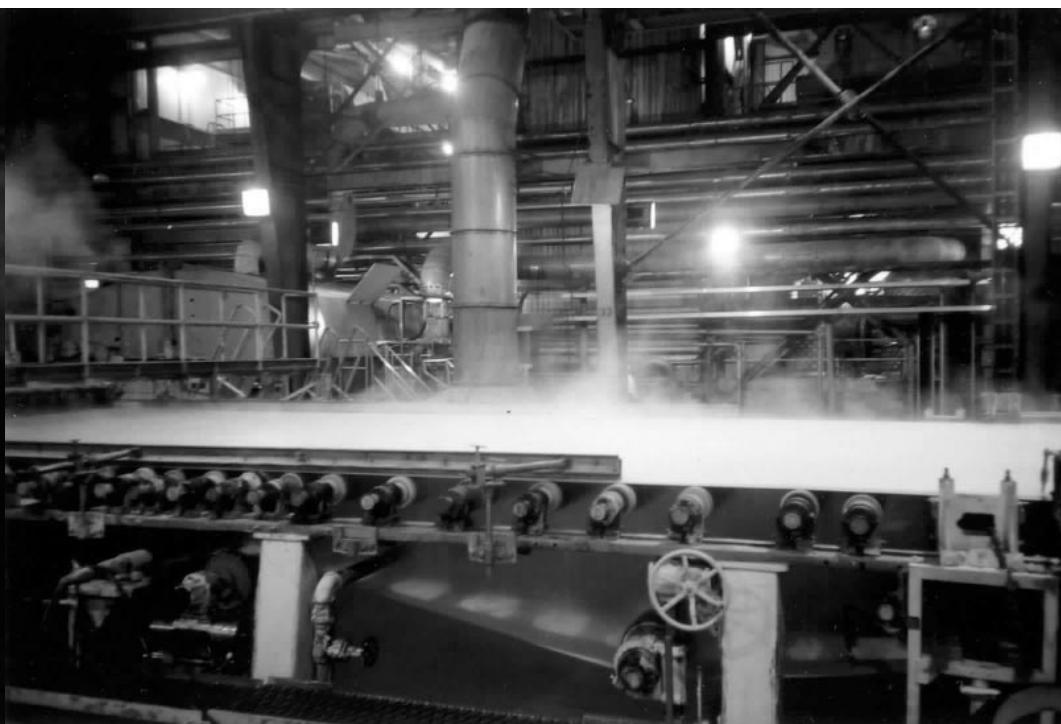


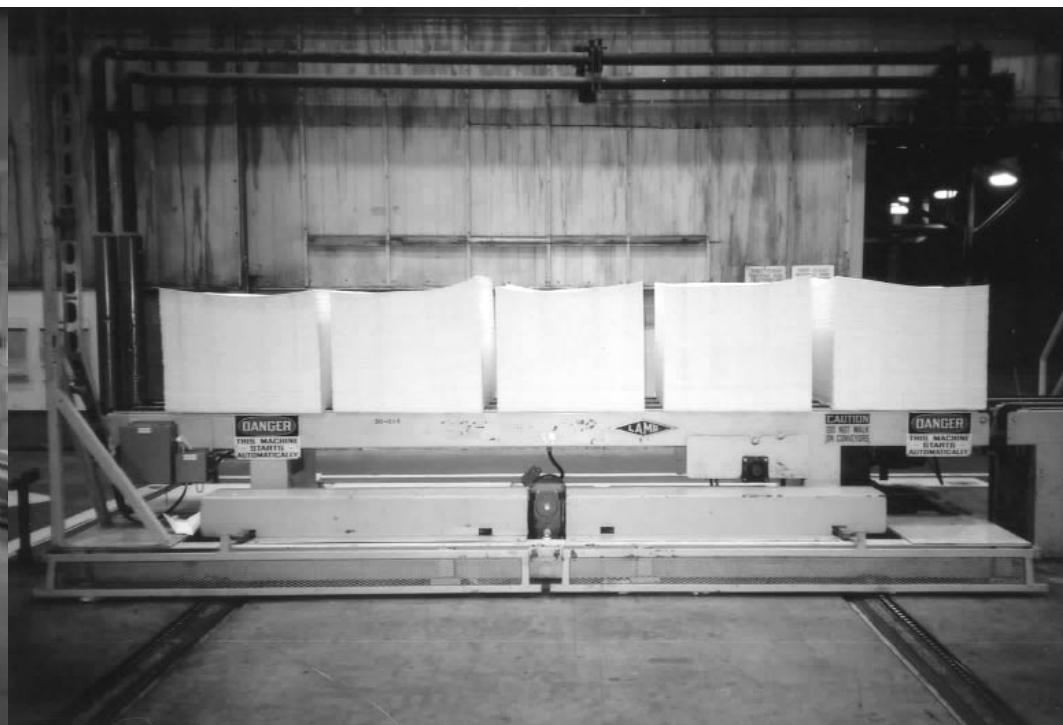
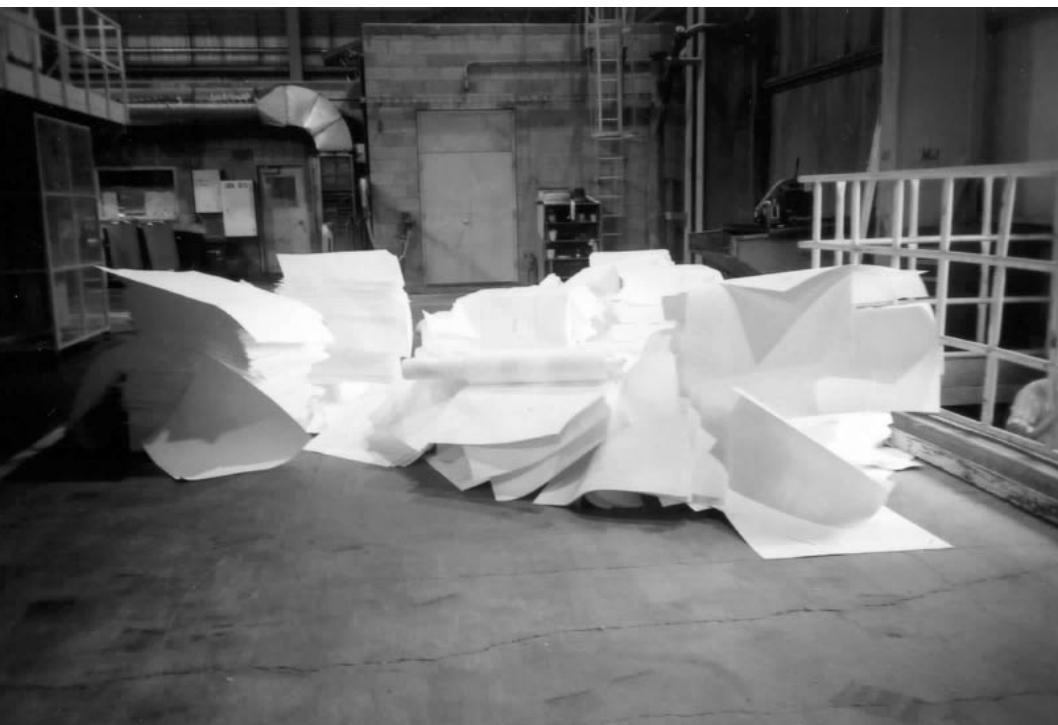












people At Work





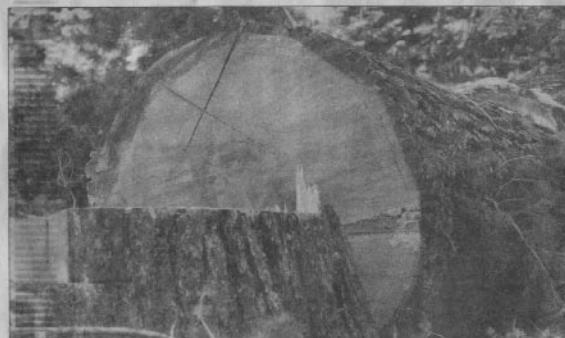
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4 WK

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY

The Nation

To Save the Forest, The Trees Must Go



More big trees, like this one in California's Plumas National Forest, will be axed under new rules.

By JOHN H. CUSHMAN JR.

protecting small communities at the forest edge. But rarely do they involve cutting so many trees, or such big ones, especially in sensitive wildlife habitat deeper in the woods.

WASHINGTON

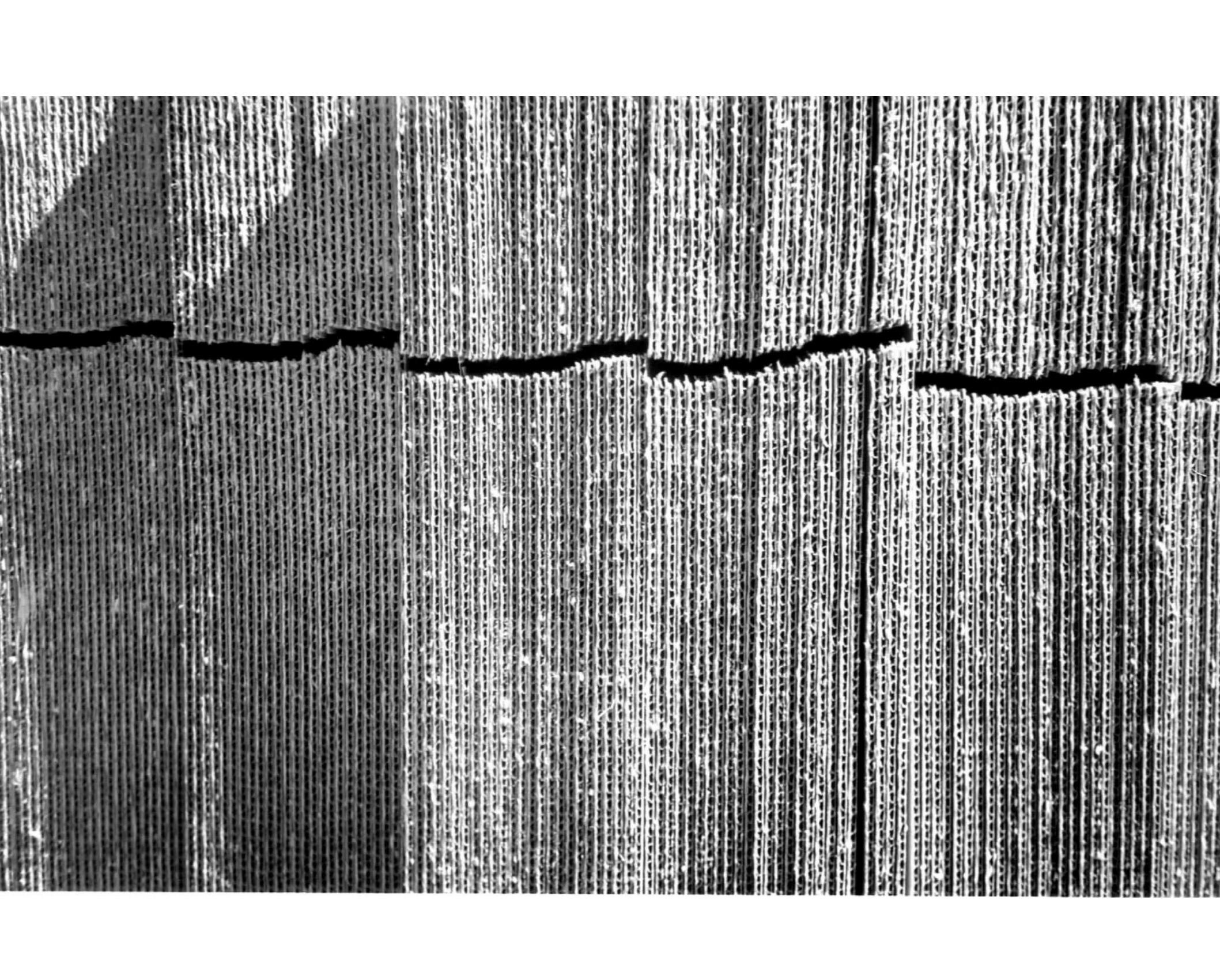
N the name of science, the United States Forest Service has proposed the experimental logging of half a million acres in two forests in the Sierra Nevada to see how it will affect the habitat of the California spotted owl and the ferocity of forest fires. But skeptical environmentalists are saying the real purpose is simply to give timber companies a chance to cut.

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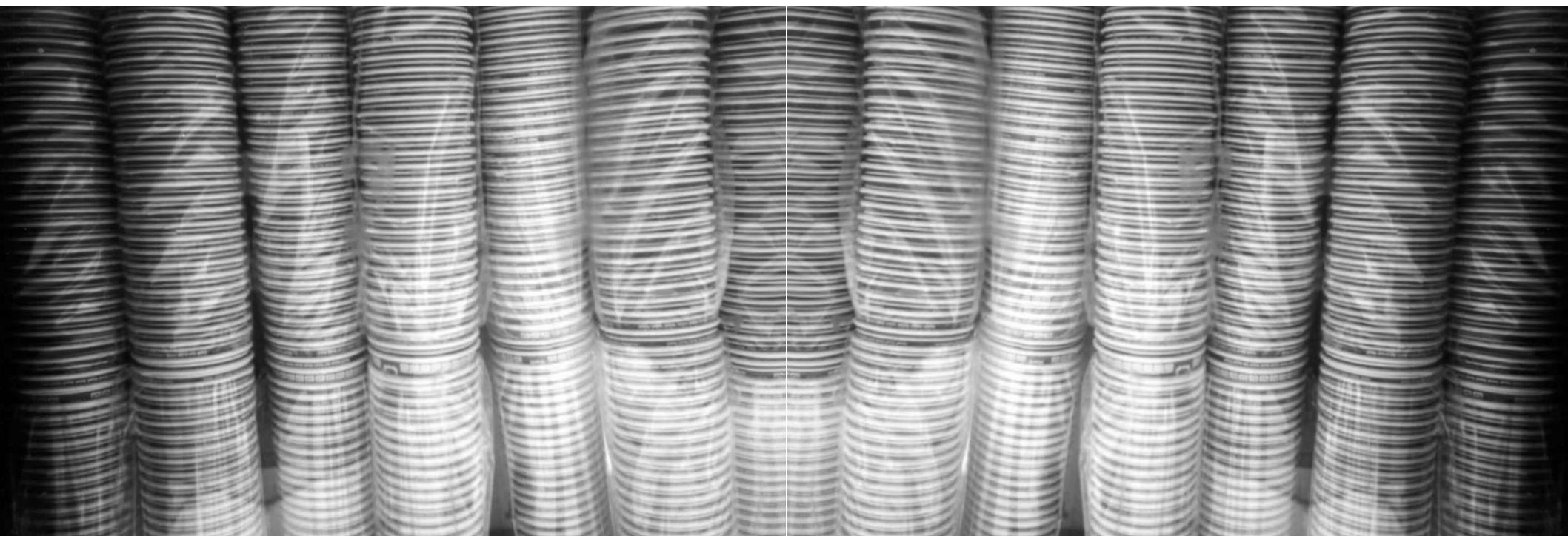
In its announcement of the project, the Forest Service referred to the logging emphatically as "management-caused changes in vegetation," and said the study would test whether the benefits of the cleared areas, which would create firebreaks, exceed the ecological damage, especially to the spotted owl habitat. Like the more famous northern spotted owl of the













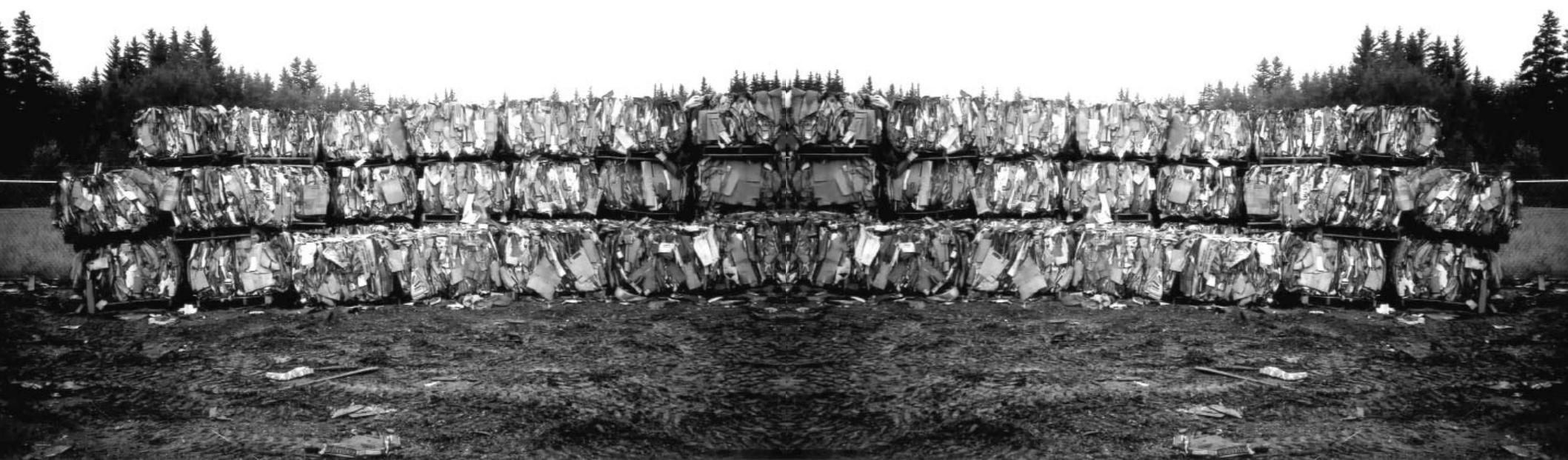


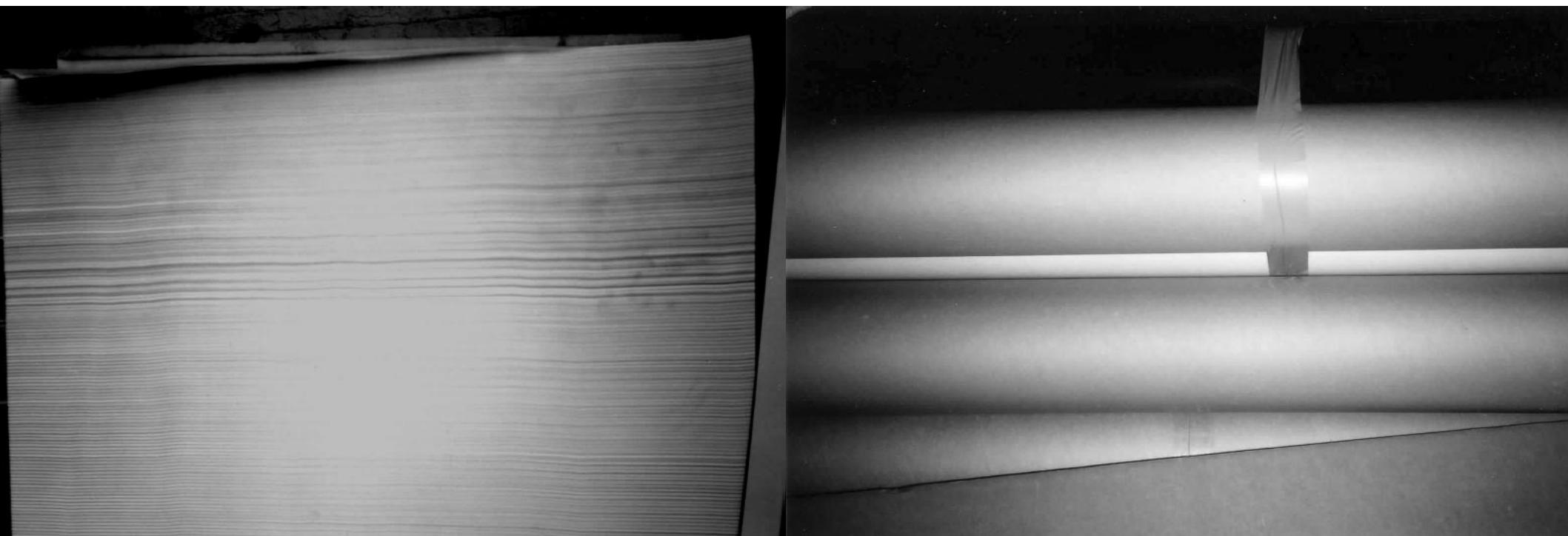
















50,000 trees are cut down every day. More than 17,000 species of plants and animals are being wiped out each year. Forests the size of 45 football fields are destroyed every second. Somewhere between twenty-one and one-hundred acres per minute are being destroyed. An estimate by the World Resources Institute estimated that the rate might be 20.4 million hectares per year. In 1978, the World Bank estimated that if tropical deforestation continued at a rate of 15 to 20 million hectares per year, there would be no tropical forests remaining by some time between the years 2040 and 2060. Over 1500 acres of land are becoming desert worldwide every hour, largely because of the destruction of upwind forests. The total amount of rainforest left on the planet is about the size of the continental United States, and every year, an area the size of Florida is cut down and permanently destroyed. Seventy-eight percent of the planet's original old growth forests have been logged or degraded. Our remaining intact old growth forests are being destroyed at a rate of nearly two acres per second. The value of the global timber trade is currently nearly US\$7 billion.

It is beyond dispute that loggers have only short term motives. The pulp and paper industry is the largest single industrial wood consumer in the US and in the world. More than half of our paper in the US comes from Southern forests, the region containing the greatest biodiversity in the continental US. Office paper contains pulp made from old growth trees - such as majestic 1000-year-old Douglas firs from the Pacific Northwest, or Canada's Great Bear Rainforest. The United States consumes more than 12,000 square miles of forest each year; almost half of all trees logged are turned into paper, and the percentage is increasing. Forests are being clear-cut at a dizzying pace. And most of these products - office paper, post-it pads, paper towels, napkins, etc. - are used once and then thrown away. Paper comprises from 40 to 50 percent of the trash in typical landfills. Currently, 90% of the world's paper is manufactured from wood pulp, but in the United States less than 1% of the total pulp produced is manufactured from nonwood, tree free alternatives. In the US, our per capita paper usage tips the scales at 735 pounds of paper per year.

Indonesia accounts for 10 percent of the world's remaining tropical forests, but Indonesia's remaining 70 to 80 million hectares (175 million to 200 million acres) of rain forest - an area almost the size of Austria - is rapidly being depleted by logging. For selective logging (few trees cut), regrowth time is less than 50 years; for clearcut logging (no trees or nutrients left), regrowth time is more than 50 years. Some of the oldest trees were seedlings at the time the Magna Carta was signed seven hundred years ago; one of the most spectacular, the Douglas fir, can live as long as 1200 years. But today, less than five percent of the original forest is protected. The rest is being logged at the rate of nearly 70,000 acres per year. Rampant illegal practices in the timber industry are standard business practice, poaching ancient trees and forests worldwide, from the Brazilian Amazon to Liberia to Indonesia. Top U.S. companies such as South Jersey Port Corporation, Shelman, Ethan Allen, Stickley, Henredon, and Georgia Pacific were all linked to the illegal timber trade in the Amazon Rainforest.

Current US estimates show that every office employee consumes some 1.5 lbs. of paper a day. Each year, 860-1000 billion pages come out of American copiers, fax machines and computer printers. Americans receive approximately 4 million tons of junk mail each year, nearly half of which (44%) is never even opened. Amount of paper and paperboard produced by U.S. companies is around 90 million tons. Amount of virgin wood consumed by the U.S. pulp and paper industry per year is around 281 million tons.

Publishers (magazine and book) and consumers alike have a new tool in assessing a publisher's impact on forests. In an attempt to educate publishers about their impact on the world's forests, the PAPER Project has released a web site that calculates the number of trees logged to print a particular publication on non-recycled paper. The calculator, located at www.EcoPaperAction.org/wizard, found that Cosmopolitan uses 328,577 trees per year to produce its magazine from virgin paper. Sample calculations also showed that National Geographic which uses 10 percent post consumer content for its cover, saves 2,255 trees, but still consumes 505,819 trees per year (according to the Magazine PAPER Project, a coalition including Co-op America, Conservetree and the Independent Press Association, coated and uncoated paper containing 10-30 percent post-consumer recycled content offers the same performance at competitive prices as virgin paper).

A chip mill would consume nearly 10,000 acres of forest within 75 acres of the mill each year (stats as per the Dogwood Alliance). High-capacity mills will outstrip the forest's ability to regenerate. Since the mid-1980's, the pulp and paper industry has built more than 130 pulp and paper mills, chip mills and whole log facilities in the Southeast and Midwest United States. Bush proposed changes to environmental laws that would make it easier for timber companies to thin federal forests and to remove fire-prone dead trees and undergrowth. The plan would change the process for reviewing the environmental effects of proposed logging and change approval standards. "I don't think the president understands how committed to the forests the people are in Washington state," says one citizen. "The president does love trees. The problem is he loves 'em horizontal -- we love 'em vertical." The Bush administration sees clearcutting as a method of preventing forest fires, but the alternative is to remove underbrush in forests. The costs of clearcutting include wildlife extinction; loss of jobs in the fishing, agriculture, and recreation industries; a drop in water quality and availability; and increased climate change. And our consumer paper products do not need to be bleached toxic white.

The work of protecting our forests must be relentless. Industrial timber companies squeeze out higher profits, ignoring the cost to the environment and the community. If we are to protect our natural inheritance and pass it on to the next generation, we must be attentive and engaged. The work of protecting our forests must be relentless. The financial benefits of clearcutting are reaped by the logging industry, citizens are provided wood, paper, toxic land, toxic water, toxic air and barren ecosystems. However, with sustainable forestry practices, recycled wood and paper, alternative materials, and reuse and recycling, we could have the products we need without destroying the planet. Do something today, call or go to the websites of Earthjustice, Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, EarthFirst, Greenpeace, or an international, national or local environmental activist group near you.

VII

TREES, the half-fossilised exuberances of a passionate life, petrified fountains of intemperance—with their abolition begins the realm of reason.

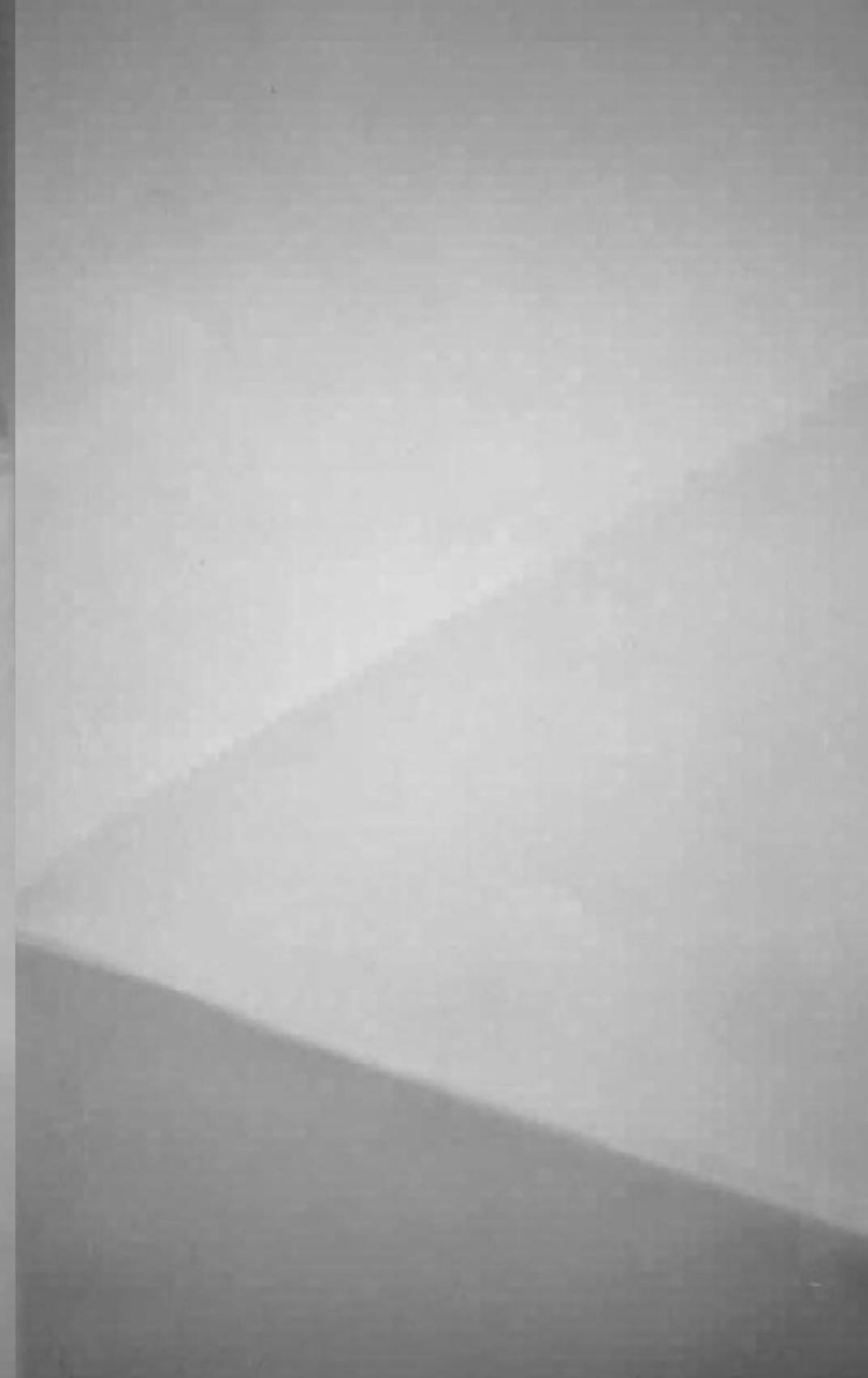
Geometry, lines and planes, smooth edges, the ordered horror of perspectives. In this country there are pavements bright and sleek as water. The walls are precipices to which giants have nailed a perpetual cataract of marble. The fringes of the sky are scalloped with a pattern of domes and minarets. At night, too, the down-struck lamps are pyramids of phantom green and the perfect circle they make upon the pavement is magical.

Look over the parapet of the Acropolis. The bridges go dizzy down on their swaying catenaries, the gull's flight chained fast. The walls drop clear into the valley, all the millions of basalt blocks calcined into a single red monolith, fluted with thirstily shining organ pipes, which seem for ever wet. There are no crevices for moss and toad-flax, and even the claws of the yellow lichen slip on its polished flanks.

The valley is all paved and inlaid with rivers of steel. No trees, for they have been abolished.

"Glorious unnature," cries the watcher at the parapet. His voice launches into the abyss, following the curve of the bridges. "Glorious unnature. We have triumphed."

But his laughter as it descends is like a flight of broken steps.







A.L. Steiner

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First edition limited to 250 numbered copies.
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Write us at:
onestar press 16, rue Trolley de Prévaux 75013 Paris France
Tel: +33 (0)6 63 01 22 87
info@onestarpress.com
www.onestarpress.com

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