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# Adirondacks Had Its Own Folk Songs; "Cold River Line" Recalls Loggers Who Kept Timber Moving a Half-Century Ago

In these days when adenoidal tenors in sheepdog haircuts are belting out "folk songs" on every other TV program, it might interest our readers to know that the Adirondack old timers turned out a few such numbers in their day.

An excellent example has been turned over to us by Leslie Rist of Newcomb, whose interest in Adirondack history has made him something of an authority on the subject. His memories were stirred by reading "Lumberjack Sky Pilot" by Rev. Frank Reed, who he recalled visiting the CCC camp at Blue Mountain Lake in early 1939 to take movies of camp life and work, and returning later to show these pictures, and others taken of the Hudson River pulp drive.

A few old timers in the Tupper area may recognize the names of old friends among the many which were worked into the song, "The Cold River Line", which was written in March of 1912 by the late Albert F. "Alley" Tripp of Newcomb. Mr. Rist writes that he received information on the song from Mrs. Marjorie L. Porter of Keene Valley; John Curry, Saranac Lake; Byron Andrus of Gooley Club, Essex Chain Lakes; Mrs.

Leon E. Braley and Charles Thornton of Newcomb, and the North Creek News-Enterprise. Of the men mentioned in the song he writes "I have information on the full names of some, and will hazard a guess at some of the others. "Pidgeon" was Julius Pidgeon; "Clayton" was probably Clayton Cross, and "Dick", — Dick Dutcher; Colby was Frank Colby; "Stanley" may have been Jess Stanley, and "Trippie" was A. F. Tripp, the author of the song, who died in the fall of 1964. "Louie" was probably Louis White, and "Paddy", Paddy Hefferon. "Ed, the foreman", may have been Ed Wakely, but I'm not sure of this, as I understand Mr. Wakely had two camps at Cold River that winter of 1912. I remember "Big Mike", who's interred in the Minerva Baptist Cemetery... After his death, a collection was taken up among his many friends for the purchase of a headstone for his grave... I recall hearing the old timers tell of Paddy Hefferon, who is also mentioned in the song. I have been informed that Pete Boudreau is still living at Long Lake. There are probably those who know other verses of this song, and others who know the persons mentioned in it"...

At the time the poem was written Tupper Lake was very much involved in the Cold River country, where the Santa Clara Lumber Co. conducted extensive logging operations for years. If any of the names in the song ring a bell, we'd like to hear from them. "Alley" Tripp followed an old, old formula in writing "The Cold River Line", working in the names of every man on the job, — a sure-fire recipe for holding his audience when it was sung... Logging methods have changed "considerable" since 1912, back before the truck and tractor era, when horse-drawn sleds, piled high with logs, moved the timber out of the woods or hauled it to landings where it was decked to await the ice break-up and the spring river drive... Much of Tripp's song dealt with the teamsters, and the "whistle-punks" and "road monkeys" who kept the tote roads in shape through the winter hauling period... Stewart Holcomb, in "Yankee Logger", recalled their work in a brief passage: "All night long a lonely man sat on a sprinkler sled and drove over

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