

History Lives on at PCA's Tomahawk Mill

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PCA's containerboard mill in Tomahawk, Wisconsin, is now the proud owner of two hand-made saws — one bearing a painted landscape of Wisconsin's mill history — that date back over 100 years.

Louis Wold was a Norwegian immigrant who came to the United States in 1905. He settled on a farm in Wisconsin and worked as a lumberman in Minnesota in the winter months. After harvesting the trees in Minnesota, the lumbermen would send the logs downriver to their Wisconsin destination — the mill in Tomahawk.

In the summer months, the multi-talented Mr. Wold (he medaled in the 1900 Olympics in downhill skiing) made his own tools for use both on the farm and for lumbering. Between 1910 and 1915, he fashioned two saws — one a single-person saw, the other a two-person tool. Each had handles carved of wood with steel teeth shaped one by one. The longer saw spanned 66 inches.

Mr. Wold's saws were eventually inherited by his granddaughter, Sandy Morton. Sandy, who worked at PCA's offices in Lake Forest, Illinois, until her retirement a few years ago, recently donated these saws to the Tomahawk mill.

A local artist, Bonita Biermier of Gleason, Wisconsin, was commissioned to paint the larger of the two saws. Three dramatic scenes along the length of the blade show various logging images such as wood floating down the river to the mill and horses and trains hauling the logs across the countryside.

The saws are now proudly displayed at the Tomahawk mill — a piece of local history for everyone to enjoy for years to come.



Louis Wold's lumbering saws, one of which has been painted by a local artist, are on display at PCA's Tomahawk mill.