

Blount Lumber: Tug Hill To Town

SANDY CREEK HISTORY CENTER

MAY 20TH, 2026

Excerpt from a letter written by Ralph McGuire to Fred, December 1942

... Blount is having trouble in getting logs cut, they have about one hundred thousand at Harrisville that they could not get down last year. The maple is all in the kiln, we will finish that up about next Friday. Then we have about five weeks run of birch, and about seven weeks of beech. Howard said he did not believe he could get over two months sawing this year, after that he did not know what we would be doing, about 70 percent of our work goes into defense prospects.

In closing, Ralph writes,

... A lot of the boys are gone by us old fellows will try and keep this old town in good shape until you boys come back. Best wishes to you, Fred, but to Hell with the Japs."

The Founder: George R. Blount



The Founder: George R. Blount

1862 - 1932



George R. Blount, 69, Head Of Blount Lumber Co., Dies

Prominent Business Leader Succumbs to Illness of Pneumonia and Mastoiditis

This community sustained a great loss in the passing of George R. Blount, 69, president and founder of the Blount Lumber Company, Lacona, who died at 6:45 Saturday evening, February 27, 1932, at his home on Railroad Street, following a three week illness.

Mr. Blount fell ill with a cold on February 7, his condition not being regarded as serious until about two weeks ago when pneumonia developed. Mrs. Jessie Blount, his wife, and daughter, Miss S. Mildred Blount, were summoned here from St. Petersburg, Florida, the latter remaining here until last week when Mr. Blount's condition seemed to improve.

During the last week mastoid trouble developed and Dr. J. H. Atkinson, Watertown, operated at the home Friday morning. Due to his weakened condition, caused by long illness, Mr. Blount failed to rally.

George Robert Blount was born in the town of Orwell, November 25, 1862, the son of Aroha and Phoebe Thomas Blount. His early youth was passed in Williamstown and in 1886 he was graduated from Rochester Business Institute.

For several years following his graduation Mr. Blount was engaged in the wholesale lumber business making the station at Sandy Creek, as it was then known, his shipping point. In 1888 he was united in marriage to Miss Jessie M. Ackley of Westdale and in 1895 they came to Lacona where they have since resided erecting their present home in 1900.

A short time after coming to this vicinity, Mr. Blount erected a small plant, 24 by 30 feet, where he manufactured rockers which he sold to various chair manufacturers and also engaged in the wholesale lumber business. The business prospered and in 1903 the Blount lumber company was formed with \$35,000 capital stock. Mr. Blount was the first president of the organization. Mrs. Jessie Blount, vice-president, and Walter D. Sprague, secretary and treasurer.

Mr. Blount at that time began to buy up various tracts of timber in Jefferson and St. Lawrence counties with which he furnished material to his Lacona mill. In 1910 he conceived the idea of branching into the flooring material business and erected another mill, about half the size of the present plant, for the manufacture of flooring.

In the same year, 1910, the capital stock of the corporation was increased to \$70,000 with a large part of the business consisting in the buying and selling of timber lands throughout the north country.

The local company did a large business during the war, providing material for the government buildings. In 1920 the capitalization of the concern was again increased this time to \$150,000 and Mr. Blount's two sons, H. Floyd and Howard P. Blount, who had served overseas with the American forces, were taken into the company as vice-presidents.

Mr. Blount was an extensive buyer of timber lands and at present the Blount Lumber Company owns over 20,000 acres of timber lands in Oswego and Lewis counties. One of the most recent purchases of land in this county, the Comstock tract located between Redfield and Williamstown was acquired in 1929.

In 1930 the company established an electric saw-mill, the first large mill to be operated in this section of the state, at Williamstown to handle the timber from the Comstock tract.

Mr. Blount's father made lumbering his business so the son, George R. Blount, inherited a natural bent toward this particular industry and as early as the age of sixteen spent an entire winter in the woods with his father. In fact he grew up to know trees and lumber and became an acknowledged expert in his chosen profession.

Mr. Blount was accustomed to arriving at his office at 7 a. m. each morning. He was always interested in the welfare of his workmen. He was an active member of the Sandy Creek Methodist Episcopal church and for many years served in an official capacity, either trustee or member of the board of stewards, being a very generous contributor to the work of the church.

In 1914, Mr. Blount headed a movement for the foundation of a local bank and the First National Bank of Lacona was organized. Mr. Blount was named as the institution's first president, continuing in that capacity until 1927. Mr. Blount will be remembered by many as one of the pioneer backers of the reforestation program which is today being carried out throughout the country. During the last several years he was instrumental in his company setting out over 3,000,000 trees on the various lands owned by the company. He was regarded as an expert in his line and about six weeks ago was in Albany where he conferred with officials of the state conservation department. He was also active in the foundation of the state game preserve of 5,000 acres which is located in the towns of Boylston and Redfield.

Mr. Blount's hobby was farming, and in 1928 he purchased the Harding farm of 140 acres, later renamed the Crownhurst Farms, which is located on the outskirts of the village of Lacona. A large deposit of gravel is located on the property and he sold these gravel deposits to the Lacona Sand and Gravel company which in turn sold out to the General Stone Products company of Pittsburgh in 1931. Mr. Blount constructed the latest farm buildings, the barn built along scientific plans costing \$13,000. He raised pure bred Holstein-Friesian stock and Guernsey stock several in the herd taking prizes at the New York state fair. During the summer months, Mr. Blount passed his leisure time at his summer home at Renshaw on the North Pond of Lake Ontario, and has passed part of the last nine winters in St. Petersburg, Florida, where he owned considerable real estate.

Mr. Blount is survived by his widow, Mrs. Jesse M. Blount; three daughters, Miss S. Mildred Blount of St. Petersburg, Mrs. Ralph Keefe of Massena, and Mrs. H. Wallace Parker of Lacona; two sons, Howard P. and H. Floyd Blount of Lacona; one brother, Andy T. Blount of Lacona and one sister, Mrs. A. G. Smith of Spokane, Wash., and Long Beach, California.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, March 1. A short prayer service was held from the late home at 1:30 and from the Methodist Episcopal church at 2:00. Rev. W. S. Dobbie, pastor, officiating, who was assisted by Rev. T. T. Davies, pastor of the Congregational Church. Mrs. Charles Watts of Oswego played the organ.

Nearly all seats in the auditorium of the local church were filled with friends from far and near who wished to pay final respects to a man who was prominently known as a citizen, churchman and business leader. Many floral tributes, beautifully arranged, gave mute testimony as to the high regard in which Mr. Blount was held in the hearts and minds of those who knew him.

Bearers for the funeral were former business associates and close friends of Mr. Blount and included M. M. Outterson, Roscoe Sargent, W. D. Sprague, Tad W. Harding, Dr. L. F. Hollis and Charles Kirch. Interment was made in the family plot at Woodlawn cemetery.



George R. Blount

Newspaper Scan & Historic Home

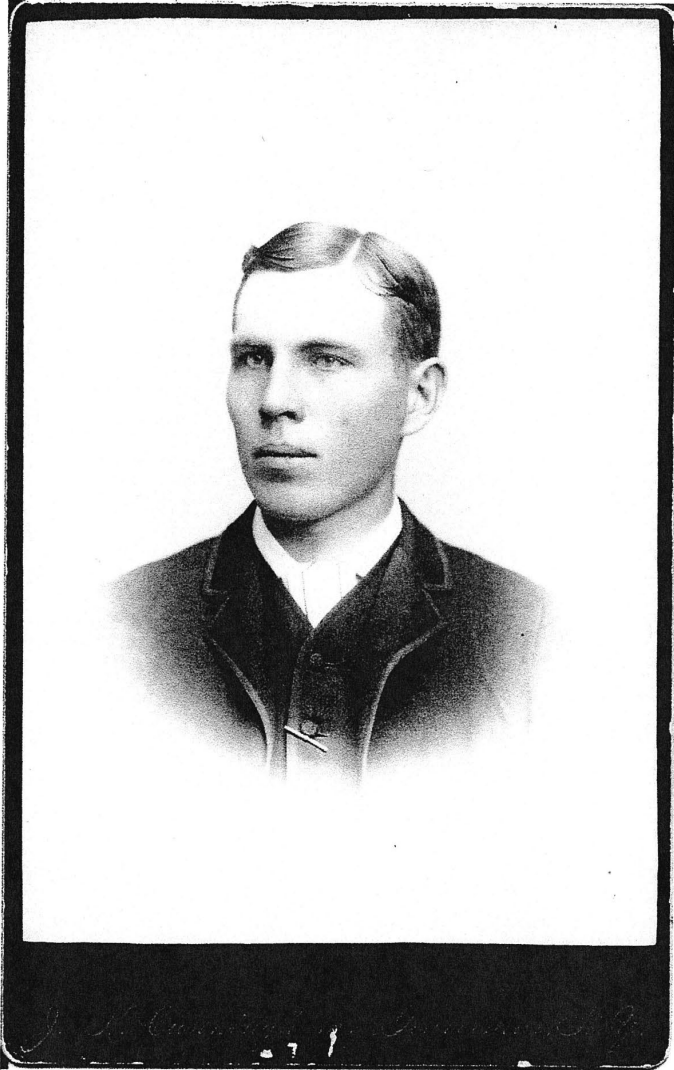
Home of George Blount, built 1902.

Photo, 1906



X0171115

Andy Thomas Blount



Blount

Funeral Held for Andy Blount, 90, Long a Resident

Andy Thomas Blount, who observed his ninetieth birthday last March, died Saturday afternoon, September 3, 1955, at the Groves nursing home. The funeral service was held Tuesday afternoon at the Weston and Woodard funeral home with the Rev. Robert Vining, pastor of the First Baptist church, officiating. Burial was in Woodlawn cemetery. Serving as bearers were T. Richard Blount, Derrill Blount, Robert Parker, Robert Obleman, Leo LaTant and Claire Soule, Sr.

Mr. Blount was born March 5, 1865, in the town of Orwell, the son of Aroma and Phoebe Thomas Blount. He attended Pulaski Academy and taught in rural schools in that area. For many years he was associated with his brother, the late George R. Blount, in the lumber business. He also had served as building supervisor for the Lacona Co-operative Milk Producers Association, and was on the town board of assessors for several years. He was a member of the Sandy Creek Methodist church and a former member of the Sandy Creek Grange.

Resided Here Since 1898

In December 1891 he was married to Miss Nellie M. Ackley of Westdale and in 1898 they moved to Sandy Creek where he has since resided. Mrs. Blount died January 25, 1925.

Surviving are a son, F. Leland Blount, two grandsons, T. Richard Blount of Lacona and Derrill Blount of Ellisburg, and twelve great grandchildren: Leslie, Jerrold, Raymond, Bonita and Danny Blount of Lacona, and Derrill, Jr., Theresa, Stephen, Patricia, Donna, Linda and Andy of Ellisburg.

Among those from out-of-town who were here to attend the funeral Tuesday were Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Blount and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Vextor of Pulaski and Mrs. Arthur Griggs of Watertown.

Andy Thomas Blount



Four of the Six Blount Siblings

*GEORGE, BESS, SARAH,
AND ANDY T. BLOUNT, C.
1930S*

Photo donated by John Blount, 3-06-2026.

Early days logging on Tug Hill

Did you know? Blount Lumber was one of the earliest industrial owners in Northern New York to practice re-forestation of cut-over timber tracts.



Early on, the best way to bring timber in the winter was by horse.



Early days logging on Tug Hill

One of the landings used to stockpile logs from Blount's eastern sawmills in the Town of Boylston. Logs cut on company land (30,000 acres of timberland) were reloaded for transport to Lacona.

Little John Area - Redfield



Early days logging on Tug Hill

Little John Area, Redfield
Early 1900s

Little John Tract, c. 1905





Log Train

The Blounts had an affinity for horses and would continue to use them well after automobiles became commonplace, but logs are also transported by the Blount Log Train.

Log Train in the
Village of Lacona,
bringing logs to
the mill



Sandy Creek Newspaper, c. 1930s

Lumbering was a booming industry.

A local company in Adams, NY, started issuing policies that local lumberman could issue on themselves for entrepreneurial purposes.

(Obtain a loan, expand the business, prototype of "workman's comp")



AS A LUMBERMAN

the services of the Citizens Trust Company are almost indispensable to you.

A checking account here will enable you to conduct your affairs in a thoroughly business-like manner, while material help can be given in making out your pay rolls safely and conveniently.

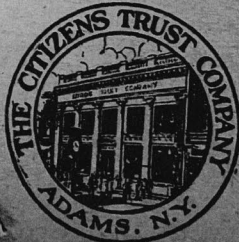
Customers have the benefit of our advice on investment matters, and are in a position to obtain loans for expanding and bettering their business.

THE CITIZENS TRUST COMPANY

ADAMS,

NEW YORK

Member Federal



Reserve System

"Distance is no Barrier to our Service"

Men From Blount Lumber Co. - 1908 - Photo Acquisition 2010 - Marie Paterson - Room
B447



Front (L to R): Walter Sprague, Percy Brewer, Arbie Tanner, Lawrence Bettinger, Melvin Outterson
Back (L to R): ? Salisbury, Charles Jennings, Alfred Bettinger, Ora Bebee, Jess Dewey, and George R Blount

Blount Lumber Company, 1908

The full "mill crew" from
Blount Lumber, 1908.



Blount Lumber Company, c. 1912

“The works,” showing the venting system to clear sawdust, and the flooring plant

CD#8 - Mill at Blount



Blount Lumber, c. 1930s

Fire was a common issue (sawdust catching fire), and even with the company having its own fire hoses, new buildings were frequently raised.



Blount Lumber, c. 1930s
Mill in Lacona

CD #8 -
Blount mill
1/16/2006



Blount
Lumber,
c. 1930s

CD #8 - Sawdust Piles - 59



Blount Lumber, c. 1930s

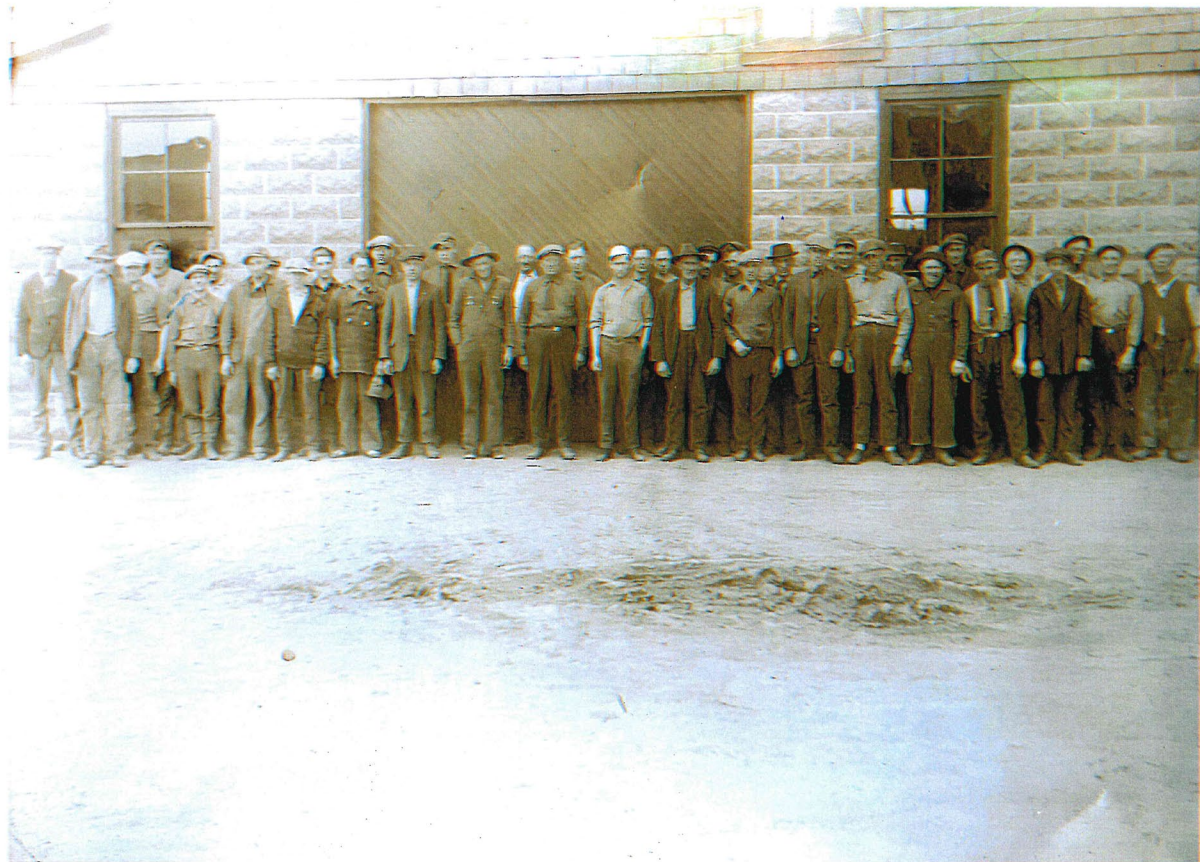
Sawdust piles

They sold the byproducts (for animal bedding, garden fertilizer, etc.)

Some piles still visibly exist today in parts of Tug Hill



Blount
Lumber
Employees,
c. 1930s



Blount Lumber Employees, c. 1930s

Company grows, kept expanding
Mill workers

1930 Ad in Sandy Creek School Yearbook

Established 1894 Incorporated 1908 Phone 38, 95

THE BLOUNT LUMBER CO.

Manufacturers

CROWN BRAND FLOORING

MAPLE — BIRCH — BEECH — ASH

Ashphalt Roofing, Hardwood Lumber, Oak Flooring, Wallboard

Specialties—L. C. L. Shipments, Mixed Car Shipments,
Milling in Transit, Kiln Drying

Lacona, N. Y.

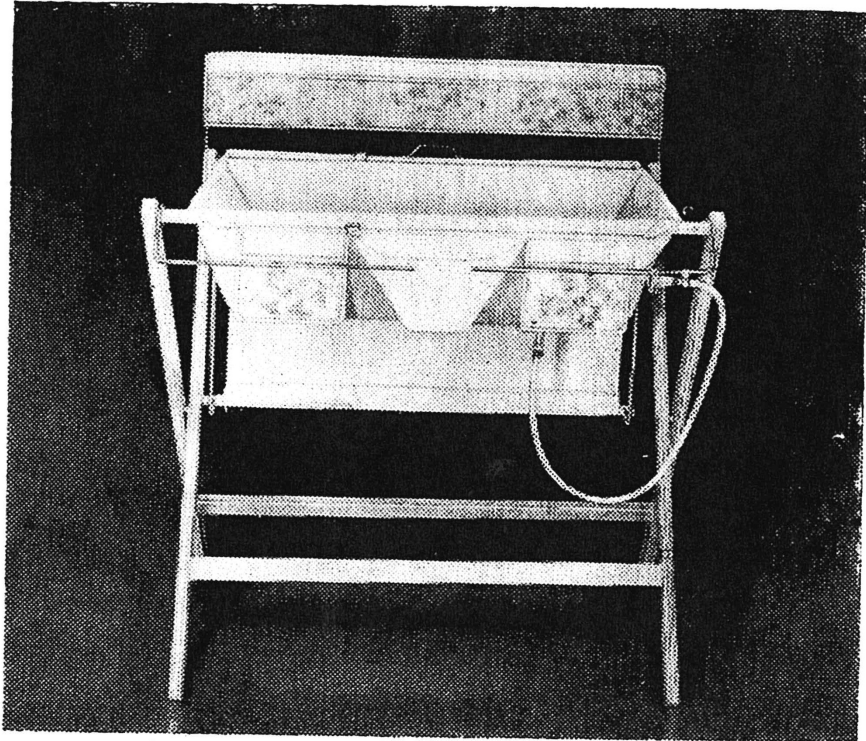
Blount Lumber, c. 1940s





Blount Lumber Employees, late 1930s/pre-WWII

Bathinettes



1932 Bathinette



1957 Model Bathinette



Construction of New Blount Company Office

Company HQ

“Blount House” adjacent, tenant
housing

Background: The Mill

Construction of New Blount Company Office

Note the train rails in the background of the photo.

The train could drive right into the mill/lumber yard.



4CD 8 - Hill View Blount Lumber - 38



CD E-8 - Hill View - 75



Blount Lumber Company Aerial Imagery

Blount Lumber Company Aerial Imagery



20th Aerial View - 71



CP#8-Side View of Blount Truck-16



CP#8-Blount Fleet Truck 33



Blount Lumber Company

Blount Lumber Company, c. 1960s

*Trucking fleet, owned and maintained
by the company.*



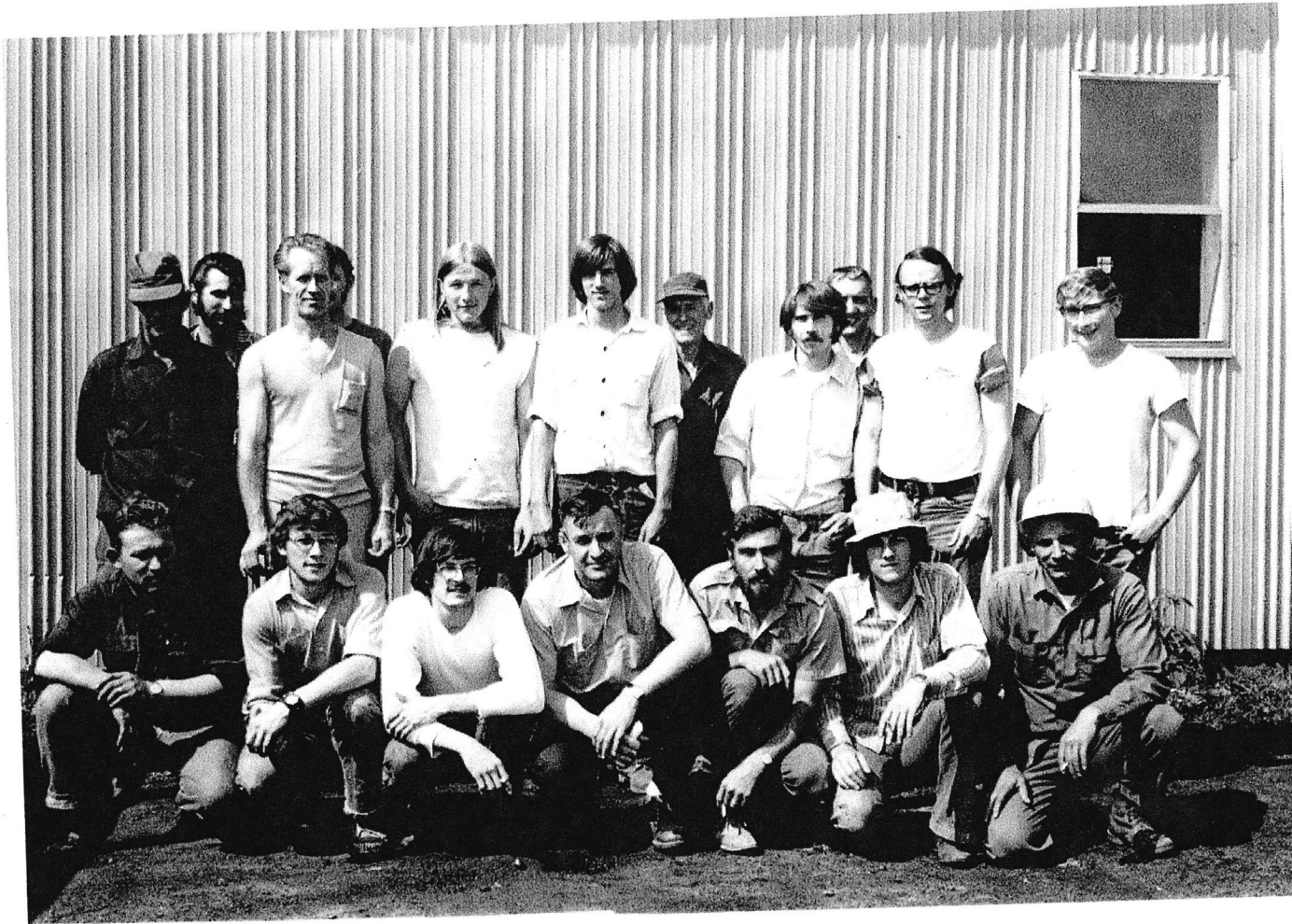
Blount Employees, c. 1960s, 1970s

Employees in the aluminum
division.

Front (L to R): Marie Brown,
Arlene Salisbury Kendall, Ella
Hunter, Belva Pierce, Kevin
Haywood,

Back (L to R): Gary Gleason, Ron
Gleason, Tim Payne, Francis
Dealing





Blount Employees, c. 1960s, 1970s

Front (L to R): Gene Haywood, Roland Lyndaker, Brent Goodberry, Jim Reid, Ralph Farmer, Richard Moffet, Bob Gamble

Back (L to R): Ralph Maitland, Pete Stafford, Ray Cerles, Bruce Killam, Rick Miller, Pete Hathway, Wilbur Chatterton, Warren Chrisman, John Bower, Don Meyeres, Ed Lyndaker

Blount Management Team, c. 1960s- 1970s

*R to L: George Blount, Robert Parker,
Thomas Blount, Jud Hoit*



Blount Office Staff



Picture taken for Sandy Creek News

Not used because of visible women's "back side," "no rears," etc.

Also note "dumb" computers on office desks



Blount Management Team, c. 1970s- 1980s

L to R

at Sim Henneberger, Dave Parker, Nate Foote
ur Walt Love, Ian Jones, Dick Thomas



Blount Parker Employee Building

BPE BUILDING OPENS,
DEC. 1948

Blount Parker Employee Building

Part of the bowling alley still
exists today in the Sandy Creek
History Center!



Blount Parker Employee Building





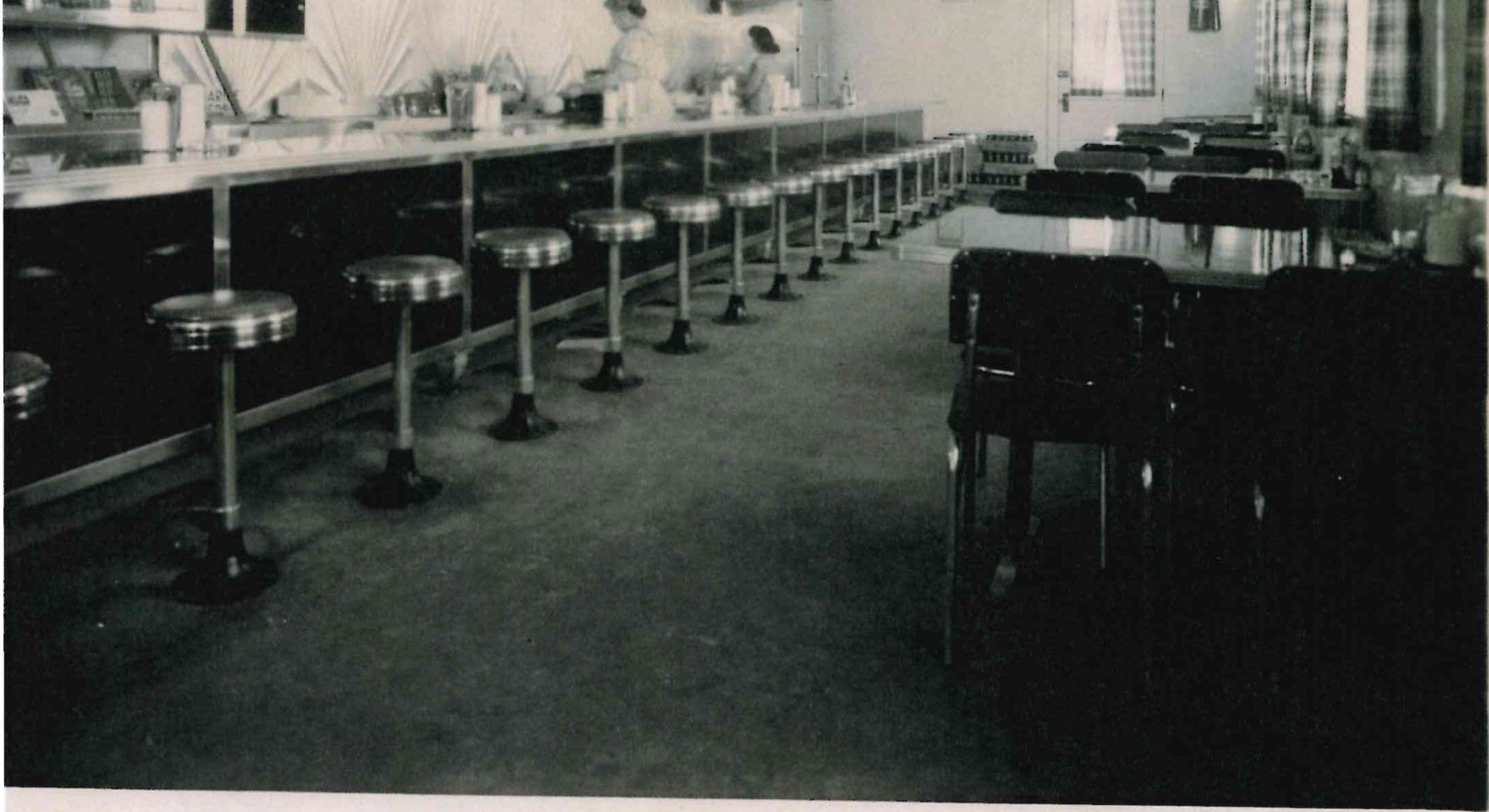
Blount Parker Employee Building

Banquets, meetings, other social
events

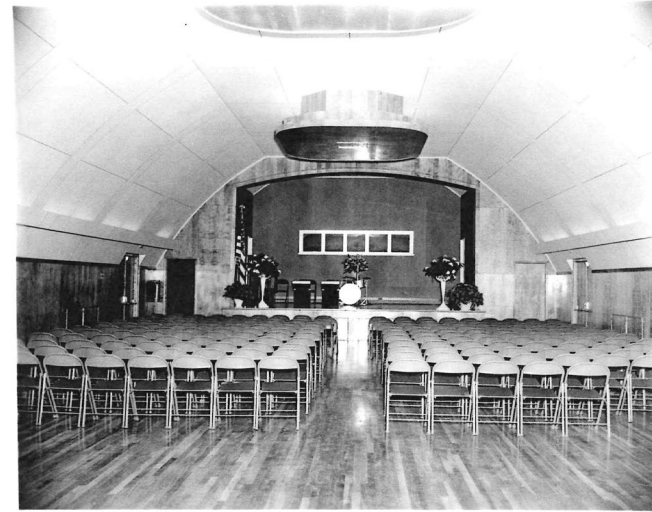


A children's bowling league.

Blount Parker Employee Building



Blount Employee Cafeteria



Stage - BRE

Upstairs Stage



Blount Parker Employee Building

“Chewing Gum” league for
younger kids.

Woman in center: Mrs. Bettinger,
organized all children’s leagues for
fifteen years.



Blount Office Staff 1977



THE **BLOUNT** EMPLOYEES TRUST

MANUFACTURERS • JOBBERS • WHOLESALERS • SASH • DOORS • MOULDINGS

LACONA, NEW YORK 13083 • TELEPHONE: 513/387-3451

August 13, 1974

Alvin Krakau
Town of Sandy Creek
Sandy Creek, NY 13145

Dear Al:

Thank you for your letter of August 9th and your offer for the BPE property.

In answering, please bear in mind that at a recent meeting of the three trustees we had decided that we would accept an offer from the Town of Sandy Creek, setting a minimum figure of \$35,000. This was along with our agreement to fix up the cellar wall, leaving it in good condition, and that we would pay all legal fees and closing costs covering exchange of the property.

We held a meeting last night and went over your offer carefully and have come up with a compromise whereby we would sell to the Town of Sandy Creek, property as is without making any repairs at a selling price of \$30,000, and we would pay all legal fees and closing costs.

This offer would be held open to the Town of Sandy Creek for 30 days and if by September 15th we fail to receive a purchase order from the Town at a figure of \$30,000, we would then list the property with several real estate agencies at a much higher price.

I hope that you can understand our position Al, as we are acting for over 100 employees and we are subject to criticism in making this important decision. If you would like to go through the property at any time just let me know and either Fred Bettinger or myself would be glad to go over the building with you.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur K. Ellis

AKE:bs

BPE Building Purchase

Contact Info
