

# WOODCHOPPING CONTEST IN 1934

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The following interesting story is taken from an article found in the December 1934 issue of the Albion Midlander. The accompanying photo with the article shows contestants and officials in a woodchopping contest. They are from left to right — Roy Baker, A. Kams, Wilbur Mull, O.C. Wagner, David Nesbitt, Dr. Cope, R. Miller and A.J. Nichols. The article is as follows:

“When these fellows lay hold of an axe they mean business. That’s what we thought when we began dodging the fast flying chips which sprayed the onlookers at the Farm Bureau chopping contest and woodlot demonstration held recently on David Nesbitt’s farm at West Barre. Here’s an outdoor sport that should be good for what ails you. To win a contest of this kind a man must possess a sharp axe along with the knack of making every blow contribute toward the final result.

“The five axe-wielders made firewood of a beech log 20 feet long and 8.2 inches thick in short order. Fair Secretary Wilbur Mull



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chopped so furiously he had to change axes every few seconds. We suspect it was because the axe head got so hot it was burning the log. R. Miller of Albion cut through the log in 2 minutes, 20 1/4 seconds to win the cord of wood given as a prize by David Nesbitt. The other contestants were A. Kams, O.C. Wagner and Roy Baker, all of Albion.

“Proper care and management will make a farm woodlot a constant source of revenue to the owner, Dr. Cope of the Forestry Department of Cornell told the meeting. In the 1/2 acre plot which was marked out on

the Nesbitt farm in 1928 consisting of 48 trees, 21 undesirable and defective trees were removed and the remaining stand thus allowed to grow under more favorable conditions.

“In the six years that have elapsed these trees have been growing at the rate of one cord per acre per year. Such factors as keeping livestock out of the woodlot, removing beech trees whose shade prevent other trees near them from growing properly, and allowing a spacing of 10-15 feet between trees so that light can get to them have resulted in this remarkable growth.”