

J. M. JONES LUMBER COMPANY, INC.

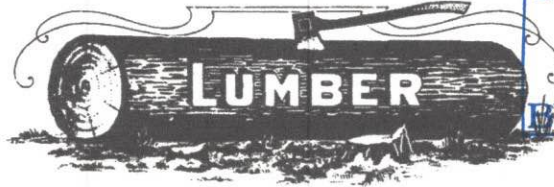
MANUFACTURERS AND WHOLESALERS SINCE 1911 OF

HARDWOOD LUMBER



ANNUAL CAPACITY OF
15 MILLION FEET

DRY KILNS AND PLANING MILLS



P. O. DRAWER 1368

NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI

39121

Sustainable Forestry Initiative® program

"JOLUMCO" BRAND

FAX 601-446-7448

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Proposed five minute talk to the Public Meeting held by the Mississippi River Commission at Natchez, Mississippi, on board the Motor Vessel Mississippi at 2:00 p.m. 17 August, 2016.

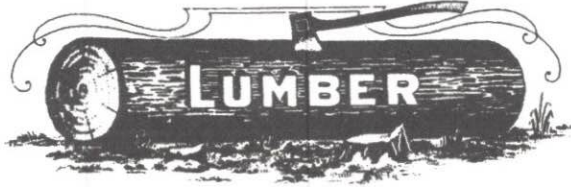
My name is Lee Jones. Our sawmill, J. M. Jones Lumber Company, Inc., is located on the bank of the Mississippi River just below the Natchez-Vidalia Bridge on the left descending bank. It was built in 1936. In 1936, it was one hundred yards from the river. Dynamiting in order to build the foundation of the Natchez-Vidalia bridge caused the caving of the sawmill and my father (I was only three months old) into the river. My father was rescued, but the sawmill wasn't and had to be rebuilt in the present location.

To my knowledge, it is the only, or one of the few, facilities directly on the bank. We have been, obviously, acting and reacting to the levels of the river since 1936, and I, personally, since 1960. I have, unfortunately, realized that the river of the early 1960's is not the river of 2016. In a gentler time, we would anticipate the crest at Cairo and seven-eight days later, Natchez would crest.

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At great personal expense, we built a 4,250' long levee, actually two separate levees, around our sawmill complex at the elevation of a 65' reading on the Natchez gauge, seventeen feet above flood stage. At 43' on the Natchez gauge, we must completely close our drainage by blocking culverts and build two small levees. All of the rainwater, then, must be pumped over our levees. A 6" rain causes eight or nine pumps to be needed.

The river, in the last ten years, has cost us dearly.

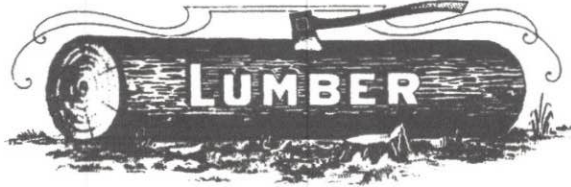
We do logging around the Old River Control Structure in lower Concordia Parish, Louisiana. We have seen the Corps spend a huge amount of money in that area, beefing up the original channel and adding an auxiliary channel. We have talked to many Corps personnel, both retired and actively working. They all state that the Old River Control Structure can handle much more flow, as well as the Atchafalaya Basin.

It seems evident that the Congressional Directive of the 50's and 60's, dedicating 70% of the flow to the Mississippi and 30% to the Atchafalaya is out of date. The old adage "when there is an action, there is a reaction" seems to be

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relevant. Just the leveeing on the Arkansas has changed the river. I'm told that the average channel of the Mississippi from St. Joseph, Louisiana to St. Francisville has risen 6'. I'm also told that the level of the Atchafalaya has dropped 6'. Seems like more than 30% can be diverted to the Atchafalaya.

The forests in the batture in these areas have diminished in every way- regeneration of trees, wildlife habitat, to just get started. In the 60's, we'd harvest a mature tree and come back in five years observing six-eight seedlings and sprouts would have taken its place. Now, due to river stages lingering for so long over 40' on the Natchez gauge during seed germination time, we have virtually no regeneration occurring. Wildlife browse is greatly diminished. This is not a Mississippi versus Louisiana issue. The batture in Louisiana is equally taking a beating. Spend time at Esperance Point, Winter Quarters, Cat Island, etc.

I am asking my Senators and Congressman and my state officials to get behind a change in the 70-30 split at Old River. I'm asking them to send maximum flow down the Atchafalaya to mitigate flooding on the Mississippi while maintaining navigation in the main channel.

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I'm asking you – the Corps and Mississippi River Commission – to be more concerned about flooding in Mississippi and the risk of flooding at Baton Rouge and New Orleans and be less concerned about the risk of flooding at Morgan City.

I believe Morgan City can handle it.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Jones