

Pine Bluffs Gazette

Incorporating the Cedar Falls Tribune

The truth is our byword - Proprietor and Editor Richard M Nixon

Pine Bluffs founding father dies

It was announced late yesterday afternoon that one of Pine Bluffs founding fathers Angus Hamish Campbell has died at the age of 101. It was in 1879 that Angus Campbell arrived in the small settlement that was to become our town of Pine Bluffs and established the lumber company that survives him today. However it was in the capacity of Chairman of the Pine Bluffs and Cedar Falls Railroad that Angus made his greatest contributions to the local and Campbell family economy.

The Scottish immigrant started his lumber company in 1879 and became the founder of the Pine Bluffs and Cedar Falls Railroad (PB&CFRR) seven years later. The main purpose of the line was to provide an efficient means of shipping the lumber from his company to Denver, and then on westward to the material hungry construction industries of California. Any benefit that the railroad would provide for the population of Pine Bluffs was regarded as purely incidental to the canny Scotsman's business activities. Angus Campbell III, now President of the Railroad and Chairman of Campbells Lumber Company, was deeply saddened by the loss of his Grandfather. "I will miss him even though we never quite saw eye to eye" revealed Campbell III to our reporter earlier today. "He did not really approve of the way I ran his companies, believing me to be too eager to spend money and not following his fiscally cautious approach to business dealings."

Fiscally cautious was probably the best way of describing the late Angus Campbell. When overseeing the construction of the PBCFRR (as it has become known) he ensured that no expense was undertaken that could possibly be avoided. Nowhere was this approach better illustrated than by the practices of his permanent way division, which in today's safety conscious environment would be regarded as somewhat marginal. His approach however was obviously the correct one, as the PBCFRR continues to operate south to Denver

and Campbells Lumber Company is now one of the most successful companies in the state, despite the recent fall in demand from the construction industry.

Campbells Lumber Company (CLC) has been associated with many historic events both in Colorado and further afield. Perhaps one of the most memorable being the provision of the lumber to be used in the construction of the Hughes Corporation's large transport aircraft. In typical Angus Campbell fashion this order was turned to good publicity purposes with the phrase "We put the spruce in Howard's Goose".

Duane Stravinski, President of Stravinski Furniture, the son of the late Igor Stravinski who was a fellow immigrant, entrepreneur, and long time friend of Angus Campbell, had a number of memories of Campbell and his unique financial ideals.

"Angus was an unusual man. He would always argue over every expense, every bill and every price. My father started Stravinski Furniture in Pine Bluffs because of Angus and Campbells Lumber Company, yet no matter how much wood we bought the price would always be argued over, with us usually losing out to Angus. He even managed to outlive my father who was five years his junior, he probably did a great amount of good for Pine Bluffs and I guess he will be missed."