



MOVING GIANT STATOR—The stator of the 83,000-horsepower motor being installed at the Air Force's Arnold Engineering Development Center, Tullahoma, Tenn., is shown being lifted by crane before being lowered to its concrete pedestal.

GEOGRAPHY

Log Cabins Disappearing

► THE LOG cabin, big talking point of the homespun political candidate of the last generation, is rapidly disappearing from the American scene.

From an estimated 15,000 log houses in Georgia in 1934, the number dwindled to a probable 10,000 to 12,000 in 1951. By the end of this century it is believed that all log cabins probably will have disappeared.

These figures are given by Wilbur Zelinsky, associate in geography at the University of Wisconsin, in reporting to the American Geographical Society's *Geographical Review* (April). He did not include the pretentious vacation lodges of the wealthy or boy scout cabins.

The genuine log house is made of round, undressed logs or of logs hewn with an ax or an adz (never sawed) to rectangular shape. They are held together at the corners of the building by some form of notching which requires no nails or other metal in the construction.

"Almost the whole of the gross material culture of the Georgia pioneer," Mr. Zelinsky said, "was based on the log. He lived in a log house and kept his livestock in log barns (if they were penned at all) and

stored his implements and crops in log bins and cribs.

"If he took the trouble to build a fence around his fields, he split logs lengthwise and arranged them zigzag in a worm fence, again without the benefit of any metal except his ax blade. . . . This frontiersman worshipped in roughly built log churches; he sent his children to equally primitive log schoolhouses."

However, the log cabin was not introduced in Georgia by its English founders, because log construction was completely alien to the British Isles. It was unknown among the Indians. It was known, but very unimportant, in Spain and never brought by the Spaniards to the New World.

English-speaking frontiersmen learned how to build log cabins from the Pennsylvania Germans and then carried their skills westward and southwestward. Log building entered Georgia at the eastern edge of the Piedmont and quickly advanced with the frontier.

It never did become popular along the eastern sea coast, perhaps because the presence of artisans made sawed lumber relatively cheap.

Science News Letter, July 25, 1953

GENERAL SCIENCE

Manpower Rosters for Science and Engineering

► WHERE THE U. S. stands on one of its most precious and scarce defense resources—scientific and engineering manpower—will be more certain after completion of four national registers now being compiled.

The lists will show the number and the background training of geologists, veterinarians and specialists in the biological sciences. Mathematicians, physicists, chemists, meteorologists and engineers will also be catalogued by a punched card system.

Up-to-date information on about 100,000 scientists and engineers is expected to be available in less than a year. The registers will make locating scientists with special skills more easy. They are being prepared with the support of the National Science Foundation.

Science News Letter, July 25, 1953

Questions

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GENERAL SCIENCE—What are the most serious dangers from atom bombs? p. 54.

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NUTRITION—How can bookkeeping help reducing? p. 52.

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OPHTHALMOLOGY—What is the best preparation for seeing well on a dark night? p. 56.

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TECHNOLOGY—How many words can new teletypewriters click off per minute? p. 56.

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