

B E T W E E N the BRANCHES



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Towering Chilean eucalyptus plantations, rugged radiata pine forests in the mountains of NSW, Australia and orderly selective-cut logging operations in Sweden are all a far cry and a long way from Florida where the very first prototype Tigercat 726 was sold.

It all started in 1992 when a small group of engineers from Canada toured the south-eastern US, interviewing dozens of loggers and compiling research clearly indicating southeastern U.S. loggers required more reliable and productive feller bunchers.

Tigercat president, Tony Iarocci, explains. “When we began, life expectancy and trade-in value of some competitive machines was at an unacceptably low level. High quality components and thoughtful design allowed us to engineer longer life into the equipment.”

Bill Harrison, Harrison Contracting in Williston, Florida recalls, “When we saw the

first one up at Tifton, Georgia (in 1992) I could see how well built it was. The pins were bigger, the center section was bigger, everything was built up better. We bought one, it held up, so we kept on buying them.”

Located in Paris, Ontario, Tigercat is the result of a successful collaboration between leading edge steel fabricator, MacDonald Steel and the engineers who conducted the initial research.

Over the years MacDonald Steel had supplied steel components to many heavy equipment manufacturers for a wide range of applications. *cont.. on pg. 2.*



Tigercat's prototype 726 - still in use today.

The engineering team had extensive experience in both the design and marketing of logging equipment.

In such a mature and competitive market, no one could have predicted what ensued. The 726 cutter was followed by an additional model every year.

These days the Tigercat product line

includes four drive-to-tree units, five track feller bunchers, four hydrostatic skidder models, a line of log loaders, seven felling head models and a growing line of cut-to-length harvesters, harvesting heads and forwarders.

Owner and chairman Ken MacDonald attributes Tigercat's success to a number of factors. "Engineering, high quality manufacture and assembly, prompt parts and service back-up and a team of strong, customer-oriented dealers have all been important factors, contributing to rapid growth and success. Interestingly, all these factors are simply offshoots or by-products of the company motto, 'Treat people the way you want to be treated.' This behavior differentiates us as a company."

At Tigercat innovation is the norm. The goal is always to provide a piece of equipment that is an improvement over the competition. "We would never be satisfied to build machines that were not an improvement over what is currently on the market," says Iarocci.

A clear example is Tigercat's efforts with the new ER boom system. This technology is introducing significant efficiencies to tree harvesting by reducing feller buncher fuel consumption, increasing production and reducing operator fatigue.



Gil Morgan, Tidewater Equipment (president) on an early model 620 skidder at the skidder assembly plant.

Tigercat engineer, John Kurelek was never happy with the conventional feller buncher boom system. It is fundamentally inefficient, mixing two arcing motion functions to get the desired reach action.

Tigercat's patented ER boom allows the machine operator to extend and retract the boom on a horizontal plane smoothly and quickly using a single joystick.

"The operator no longer has the mentally tiring job of simultaneously working the boom and stick controls to manipulate the attachment in and out in a smooth manner," explains Grant Somerville, head of Tigercat's track carrier engineering group.

Tigercat has introduced similar ground-breaking innovations such as the development of the high capacity bunching shears and saws and the line of hydrostatic skidders.

In both cases the developments have found applications where the machines

greatly outproduce anything the contractors had ever operated before.

"The 630B and 635 skidders have created their own market," says Jon Cooper, product manager for skidders.

"Our customers are discovering that in poor terrain like hills and soft ground, the machine outproduces."

David Long, branch manager of B&G Equipment, Hattiesburg, Mississippi sees great benefits in running the 630 machines on any high production application.

"When I first started selling 630 skidders, everyone was worried about the extra fuel consumption," recounts Long.

"I said yes, a 215 hp skidder [the original 630] is going to burn three or four more gallons of fuel per hour than your 185 hp skidder. But it is also going to pull three or four more loads per day. A load of wood might pay \$300-400. That's all profit. I mean you are paying the operator to be there for the whole day anyway. The only thing it costs you is twenty bucks a day for the extra fuel."

"Cost per ton of wood delivered to the mill is the correct way to evaluate a machine."

“Cost per hour doesn’t mean anything,” explains Long. “Loggers don’t get paid by the hour, they get paid by the ton. Cost per ton of wood delivered to the mill is the correct way to evaluate a machine.”

Ken Macdonald concurs. “We always try to create exceptional tools that allow our customers to harvest timber for the lowest possible cost per ton in the industry. We believe that our machines will enable them [loggers] to win new contracts, dramatically reduce their operating costs and improve bottom line performance.”

Tigercat directly employs about 230 people. Sister companies MacDonald Steel and Metalfab supply most of the fabricated steel components for Tigercat machines. This requires the efforts of approximately 270 additional employees from the various fabrication plants.

Loggers who visit the Tigercat facilities notice some unique aspects of the company’s daily operations. For instance, there is no assembly line on the shop floor. Each machine is assembled using a ‘team build’ approach.

Two assemblers who work together regularly are responsible for building the machine from start to finish including testing and inspection. They are fed certain subassemblies such as cabs, engines and undercarriages but the responsibility for the final product rests with them. Their names are attached to the machine permanently.

Martin Jennings, Tigercat production manager, oversees all manufacturing operations. “We hire highly skilled assemblers to build these machines.

We don’t cut corners to save costs. We emphasize that they need to build the machines as if they were going to buy them.”

Assemblers are also cross-trained to build other Tigercat products and often perform specialized field service work. “The assemblers think our approach is great,” says Jennings.

Ken MacDonald ties the unique production method into his overall philosophy and guiding credo. “When one of our products is being designed, our engineers and designers do so with this question in mind: How would I want this to be built if I was going to own it? Similarly, when a component is welded, machined or assembled, the tradesperson performing that task does so as if he was building his own machine.” ■

Between The Branches Editorial Team:

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Jon Cooper, product manager with Mark Winhold & Ian Shaw, skidder designers. Behind them is the prototype 635.



Prototype bunching shear during initial testing near the factory in Southern Ontario.

10th Anniversary Weekend

During the weekend of August 23-24, the Tigercat track machine plant in Paris, Ontario was transformed into the epicenter of a grand celebration.

The occasion? Ten successful and for the most part, profitable years of business for forestry equipment upstart Tigercat Industries.

“This was our way of saying thanks to all our business partners that have contributed to make Tigercat a success,” explains Tigercat president, Tony Iarocci. “And of course our design philosophy, never to do things halfway, extended to our party planning. We received lots of positive feedback.”

Customers, Larry and LeMerle McIntyre of Bowdon, GA, said, “We were touched by Tigercat’s generosity — from the excellent meals, the entertainment, the transportation...everything! May God continue to bless you and your business.”

The weekend started as early as Thursday. Dealer representatives and customers from Canada, the US, Germany, Australia and New Zealand toured the Tigercat facilities.

“Our employees, customers and their families were amazed to see what all is involved in building Tigercat products,” commented Ricky McConnell, owner of Alabama Tigercat distributor, Forestry 21.

Mike Ross, a member of the skidder engineering team, was instrumental in the success of the event.

“When people work hard, they can accomplish so much in just a short time. Everyone on the committee was giving 100%,” says Ross.

Friday night, a vendor appreciation fish fry for 450 was held.

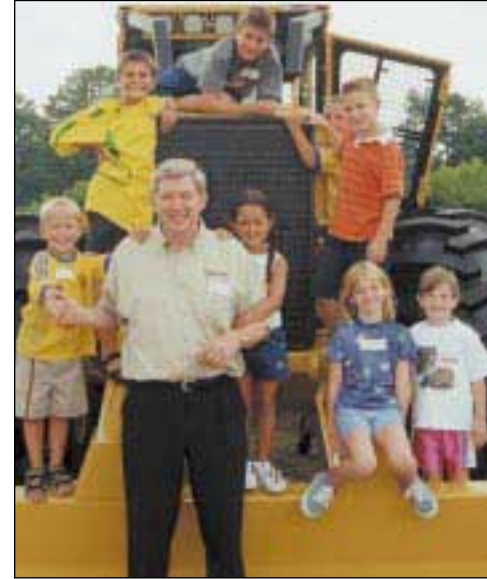
On Saturday morning, Tigercat employees brought family and friends to see their workplaces. According to Ross, “Many people only see certain stages of the machines. After this, they have had the opportunity to see all aspects; design, manufacture and assembly.”

A BBQ and kids fun day followed, complete with jousting, tattoo artists and a giant inflatable obstacle course.

The finale — dinner and dancing for over 800 employees, customers and dealers that carried late into the night.

“The interaction between our people, our dealers and the Tigercat end-users in attendance was not only invaluable but great fun,” comments chairman and owner, Ken MacDonald.

“Since founding Tigercat in 1992, it has been a source of personal pleasure for me to work with some spectacular people. Our tenth year celebration is a tribute to all of them”. ■



Owner and chairman, Ken MacDonald surrounded by friends.



Fun for kids of all ages. Senior assembler Rodney Stewart wipes out Mike Ross, major contributor to the event.



The Tapscott gang with John Kurelek and Tony Iarocci. Left to right: Termite, Tracy, John, Binky, Tony and Gook.



The whole gang, over 800 strong, just before dinner on Saturday evening.

Robert Clary - Tigercat Pioneer

By Anthony Goad -
dealer development

In August 1992, Robert Clary, owner of Clary Logging based in Cordele, Georgia purchased the first serial production Tigercat 726 feller buncher.

Ten years later despite retiring, he continues to use Tigercat machines. Tigercats are integral to the operations of Clary Logging. In the past decade that original machine has grown to numerous pieces of Tigercat equipment that work on five independent logging crews for Clary Logging and C&M Wood Producers.

Despite working close to 60 hours a week, Robert Clary considers himself to be retired. "I retired years ago because when you are retired you get to do what you want and not have to worry about the details and that is what I do each day with logging."

Clary Logging is a family operated business, owned by Robert and son, Toogie. Another son, Bud owns C&M Wood Producers in partnership with Jackie Mekee.

Robert affectionately refers to his daughter, Gina as his "right arm." Gina and Clary's wife Rosie, both work in the office, running the administrative aspects of the business. This takes some pressure off Clary, allowing him to enjoy the more positive aspects of logging.

Each crew is equipped basically the same with a Tigercat 630B skidder, a Tigercat 250 loader and a Tigercat 720 series feller buncher. The 720B has over 7200 hours on the meter. A 720C on another crew is equipped with a Flexxaire™ fan. The most recent cut down machine is the new 720D model with the cross-flow cooling system.

Toogie, with some help from Robert, operates two thinning crews that work predominantly on tracts purchased on the open market. The third crew performs clear felling in both pine and hard wood applications.

Originally from Florida, Clary got his start

in logging in the 1960's from his father in law and close friend, the late John Yancey. His career in logging and sawmilling spanned over 60 years, dating back to crosscuts, wheelsaws, mule and oxen.

Of Yancey, Clary offers, "Mr. Yancey's ability to log tracts that no one else could and his determination to get the wood across the scales no matter what was where me and my sons have learned a lot of the drive and determination we have today."

In the late 1970s, Clary Logging was formed. Felling hard wood for Container Corp. grew into a pole contract.

Then in 1980, Clary moved up to Jacksonville, Georgia while working for Empire Timber Company. Clary recalls that they were only supposed to be in Georgia for one week until a job opened up back in Florida. The following week they moved over to a tract on Highway 90 near Cordele, Georgia and according to Clary "we just never left."

After 1984, Clary quit logging for Empire and he and Mr. Eddie Biggers started their own timber buying company.

Although Clary saw the prototype 726 cutter at the Tifton Logging Exposition in the spring of 1992, he didn't pay much attention to it at the time. Eddie and Johnny Hodge of Williston Timber in Florida purchased the prototype Tigercat 726 immediately after the show.

Later that year Robert and Toogie flew to Florida to see the machine with representatives of Carlton Company, the Tigercat dealer in Georgia at the time.

Toogie operated the Tigercat 726 for a few hours unknowingly in high

cont.. on pg. 6.

The Clarys:
Bud, Robert & Toogie.



gear. It was only after he had stopped that Eddie Hodge informed him that there was a low gear to be utilized during felling. “I didn’t need to demo the machine in low gear,” explains Toogie. “If it ran that well in high gear, it would be unbelievable felling trees in low gear.”

Robert adds, “We decided to buy that machine on the plane ride home.” He liked the fact that the Tigercat buncher gave the logger a reliable alternative to what was being offered by the competition at the time.” He remembers anxiously awaiting delivery of the machine. “It seemed to take forever to get here but it was definitely worth the wait.”

The machine remained in operation until last year when it was traded in on a Tigercat 720C feller buncher. Despite having 19,000 hours on it at the time of trade, Clary proudly claims, “we never had to shim the center section on that machine once.”

Early on, the aspect that impressed Robert and Toogie the most about the first Tigercat was that the air conditioning actually worked. “The air conditioning on other products at the time were a pain in the butt and the pocketbook to keep working,” explains Clary.

When asked if he ever regrets trading in the first machine, Robert ponders for a moment before answering. “I think about that particular machine often, but we needed the 720C to be able to switch between the three jobs.”

Clary argues that the main obstacle to operating an efficient logging business is equipment downtime. He maintains the downtime has been severely

limited since purchasing the Tigercat equipment because Tigercat is willing to work with the logger to get the right equipment for the job.

When Robert saw the cross-flow hydrostatically operated fan on the Tigercat 640 site-prep tractor at the Atlanta Expo in 1999, he wondered why it could not be applied to the skidder line. “I remember standing right there on the floor of the Atlanta Expo with Jon Cooper (skidder product manager) and Tony Iarocci (president) going over the specifics of putting the fan on the 630 skidder.”

The addition of the cross-flow fan along with a number of other modifications and improvements gave rise to the 630B model. Clary Logging purchased the first one.

Clary believes innovations like the cross-flow cooling system put Tigercat ahead of the competition. “That fan made all the difference in the world - Tigercat really hit a lick with that one. It’s just common sense that if the engine is running cooler, then the hydraulics will run cooler and the machine will perform better.”

Toogie reinforces his father’s point. “What I like about Tigercat is their commitment to the customers. No other equipment manufacturer does that.”

Robert admits that no matter what Tigercat decides to build, “If I have a need for it, I’ll buy one.”

The support, assistance and participation of the entire family in Clary Logging is what has kept things interesting for Robert. Although he considers logging a very expensive retirement hobby, he continues working because he “loves it so much.” ■

“If it ran that well in high gear, it would be unbelievable felling trees in low gear.”



The first 630B purchased by Clary in 1999.



Tigercat Exchange Components

New Tigercat Rebuild Program is a Hit

The Tigercat parts and service departments were proud to release their new component rebuild program this past February. In the current tough economy, the TEC (Tigercat Exchange Components) program could not have been launched at a more convenient time for everyone.

The basic premise behind the program is that Tigercat adds a core charge to the price of a rebuilt component. When the core is returned (complete and unopened) the entire core charge is credited back to the dealer.

Tigercat parts manager, Brian Jonker explains some of the benefits of the program. "The net price of components [in the TEC program] has been reduced by 15% and the availability of TEC components is guaranteed. Tigercat will supply new components at a rebuilt price if TEC items are not in stock."

"The dealer is able to either waive the core charge to the customer or credit the customer when they receive the core because they know that, in turn, Tigercat will give them a full credit," adds Jonker.

In addition to guaranteed availability, the warranty on TEC components is the same as new components.

"I like the TEC program because it saves the customer money," comments Tidewater, Walterboro parts manager Daniel Beach. "It also gives the customer confidence when he sees that it has been rebuilt by Tigercat because he knows they will stand behind the warranty on the TEC components."

The TEC program boosts the confidence level of both dealers and end-users regarding the purchase of major components. "The component is purchased by the logger at a significantly reduced price and the factory will stand behind it," Jonker confirms.

Early feedback regarding the TEC program has been favorable. Yves Richard, parts manager for the Lively, Ontario branch of Strongco Equipment likes the program. "It is easier for us because it is what we are accustomed to. We can now bill our customer with the confidence that we will receive our full core credit."

TEC is another example of Tigercat's commitment to quality and affordable service. When choosing replacement components, TEC is the only choice to make. ■



Tigercat has its own in-house component rebuild facility.



Tigercat - the first 10 years

Pre - 1992

- Ken MacDonald, president of MacDonald Steel, discusses with Tony Iarocci the idea of building machines for the forestry sector
- Ken and Tony tour southern United States investigating the requirements of the American logger
- After analysis, Ken and Tony decide to build a rubber-tire feller buncher



726



720



Bunching Shear



853



845



Bunching Saw

630

Tigercat displays the prototype 726 feller buncher at the Tifton, Georgia Logging show which is purchased by Williston Timber in May '92 (still running today)

Tigercat names first distributor in the United States

Tigercat delivers first production 726 feller buncher to Robert Clary in Cordele, GA

1st Tigercat assembly facility is within the MacDonald Steel plant

1992

Tigercat introduces 720 feller buncher

Tigercat leaves the nest and moves into 86 Plant Farm Blvd, Brantford

2

1993

Tigercat enters into agreement with John Deere Canada to engineer and manufacture the Tigercat 853E track feller bunchers for their dealer network in Canada

MacDonald Steel acquires the Woodstock facility, 136,000 sq. ft. - 78 acres

Tigercat introduces the ground breaking high capacity bunching shear

3

1994

Tigercat attends the Atlanta Exposition for the first time, introducing the 845 feller buncher

Tigercat expands facilities - adding the track assembly facility - 140 Consolidated Drive, Paris

Metalfab moves into Cambridge (Savage Dr) 134,000 sq. ft. - 12 acres

4

1995

Tigercat builds the first in a series of revolutionary high capacity bunching saw heads

Tigercat 630 - first serial production hydrostatic skidder

5

1996

Tigercat

Decade and Beyond

Years



M760



T750



870



620



L830



1018



230



240



C630



724



822



635

Tigercat expands facilities - adding administration, parts and service - 40 Consolidated Drive, Paris

Tigercat introduces 230 log loaders

Tigercat's builds 1000th machine

Tigercat introduces the H845 harvester, 240 loader and S860 shovel logger

Tigercat expands facilities - adding drive-to-tree feller buncher assembly facility at 54 Morton Ave., Brantford

MacDonald Steel acquires Avenue Rd., Cambridge facility 206,000 sq. ft. - 20 acres

Tigercat introduces the 620 hydrostatic skidder

Tigercat expands on the established skidder line with the C630 clambunk skidder (with hydraulically operated cross-flow cooling fan)

Introduces 720C feller buncher (wide-range transmission)

Tigercat named one of "50 Best Managed Private Companies in Canada"

Tigercat acquires assets of Hemek, Hede Sweden and forms Tigercat AB

Tigercat expands scope, producing the Tigercat T750 trencher, M760 mulcher, 870 and L830 feller bunchers, 635 skidder and 724 feller buncher

Tigercat's 2000th machine

Tigercat introduces the 822 feller buncher at Atlanta Expo

Tigercat exhibits at Elmia Wood, Sweden and unveils the prototype 1018 forwarder

Tigercat unveils the ER boom on its track feller buncher and harvester lines

6

7

8

9

10

1997

Tigercat 635 skidder takes on the winter challenges of Chile

By Gary Olsen - export manager

Much of Chile's forest industry is located in steep terrain. Add the complicating factors of extremely high winter rainfall (the area receives 775 mm [30 in.] per year, mostly in winter) and monstrous Radiata pine and you've got the makings of some of the toughest skidding applications in the world.

Limited road infrastructure makes the heavily sloped terrain even less manageable, necessitating a great deal of uphill skidding.

From the outset it looked as though the odds were stacked heavily against a cost effective skidding operation. Enter the Tigercat 635 grapple skidder.

Keen to try this cutting edge technology, forestry company, Forestal Arauco agreed to test a 635 to see how it stood up to the full range of conditions experienced in Chilean winter. The assumption was that if it mastered these challenging winter conditions, then the drier summer wouldn't pose any problems.

Andy Bays, managing director of Tigercat dealer Latin Equipment elaborates. "The trial was set up to test the machine in the most extreme conditions possible, working on a site already planned for cable yarders. This site was considered too difficult for

either grapple or cable skidders especially during the wet winter conditions."

Tigercat sent Rick Gervais, a 635 operator

from Alberta to operate the machine for the trial as well as district manager, James Farquhar for technical support and factory representation.

The day to day logistics and planning of the trial was the task of Latin Equipment Chile S.A. They performed near miracles to ensure a successful trial.

The terrain varied with the majority being in the 15 - 30% slope range.

Percentage of land area	Slope (measured in %)
20	0 - 15
65	15 - 30
15	30 - 40

The average tree size for the duration of the trial was 1.8 m³ per stem (2.2 tons per stem.) The trees measured as high as 30 m (98 ft.) with average diameter at breast height being 45 cm (18 in.)

The system in place was a track feller buncher fitted with a bar saw, motor-manual delimiting, skidding to roadside, topping at minimum diameter, tree length loading and trucking to the merchandising yard at the mill.

Due to the combination of mechanized harvesting and manual delimiting methods, the buncher was unable to optimize bunch sizes for the skidder. Previous to this study, the trees were being placed in a fan pattern so that the chainsaw operators could get in between the trees to delimit.

Bays explains. "The buncher could not arrange a good presentation of the trees as it did not have the lift and slew capacity."

The result was an added challenge for demo operator Rick Gervais. During the trial it was discovered that if the buncher placed the trees in more parallel alignment, the chainsaw operators could still get in

635 skidding uphill.



between the trees to delimb and – on account of the large grapple opening – the skidder could pick up more trees with less maneuvering.

The average grapple load size for both up and downhill skidding was 7 m³ (approximately 8.5 tons.) The lead skidding distances varied for the up and down hill operation. The uphill skid distance was 164 m (179 yds) while the downhill skid was 67 meters (73 yds.)

Once at the landing, the skidder was required to release the load, then orient the trees so that the topping or X-cutting process could be completed.

The skidder operated for some of the trial duration without chains but these were fitted as soon as it began to rain. Other than that the machine was of standard specification.

A field day was held although Forestal Arauco allowed a continuous flow of visitors on their property for the duration of the trial. Finally, a complete two-week time study of the operation was performed by the Forestal Arauco Work Study Department in order to determine the effectiveness of introducing this new technology into their operations compared to their current methods of logging.

The results of the trial saw the machine perform most admirably in testing conditions. Adverse conditions such as slope class, skidding distance and direction of skid (up or downhill) had the expected impact on the productivity but still the machine showed that it is more capable than any four-wheeled equivalent. The average productivity for the full range of slope classes skidding uphill was 41.5 m³/hr (50 tons/hr) while the average on the downhill was 40.2 m³/hr (48 tons/hr.) There was no downhill skidding in the 30-40% slope class.

Results of time study (work elements)

	Uphill skidding	Downhill skidding
Travel Empty	18%	42%
Collect Load	22%	16%
Travel Loaded	56%	34%
Release Load	1%	1%
Stack/Orient Load	3%	7%

The results were pleasing to Forestal Arauco, Latin Equipment and Tigercat. The trial was performed in pursuit of finding the best and most cost effective solution for the logging challenges facing Forestal Arauco.

In the final analysis, the inclusion of the 635 in the overall system may prove to be a big step forward in pursuit of this challenging goal. This argues well for the future of this and other Tigercat machines in Chile. ■

635 performs well in Chile's adverse conditions.



Timber up to 30m in length.



As testimony to the performance of the 635, Arauco has purchased two skidders for their operations.

Tigercat Felling Head Line-up

By Duane Barlow -
attachment product
manager

Tigercat introduced and patented the dual post high capacity bunching saws and shears that have become so common in southeastern US forests. The combination of innovative 2-arm geometry and the raised, offset pocket has produced saws and shears whose style has been heavily copied, although the performance cannot be matched.

Recognizing that average tree diameters in working forests throughout the world are declining, Tigercat has developed 'big timber' single post saws that retain the ability to handle smaller diameter wood.

Saws

Tigercat saws can be divided into two categories. Dual post saws are used primarily with drive-to-tree feller bunchers in smaller or varying diameter timber and plantation thinning applications. Single post felling saws, are more applicable to track feller bunchers and generally better suited to larger timber applications.

That said, Tigercat recognizes that contractors often are faced with a variety of species, terrain and applications and has designed flexibility and versatility into it's range of saws. Many of these innovative features are patented and unique to Tigercat.

5000 bunching saw

- For drive-to-tree and track feller bunchers (718, 720, 724, 822, 830, 845, 860)
- Accumulating area: 5.4 sq.ft.; 6.6 sq.ft. total (0.5; 0.61 m²)
- Single cut capacity: 20 in. (510 mm)
- Throat: 32 in. (815 mm)
- Weight: 4600 lbs. (2,085 kg)

The 5000 series dual post saw is ideally suited to small diameter wood under 14 in. (355 mm) with very high productivity in plantation thinning applications. The large offset accumulating pocket stores cut trees in tight parallel alignment.

5600 bunching saw

- For drive-to-tree feller bunchers (720, 724, 726)
- Accumulating area: 6.7 sq.ft.; 8.3 sq.ft. total (0.62; 0.77 m²)
- Single cut capacity: 23 in. (585 mm)
- Throat: 36 in. (915 mm)
- Weight: 5600 lbs. (2,540 kg)

The dual post 5600 saw is larger but of similar design to the 5000 saw. While maintaining high productivity in plantation thinning applications, the head is very well suited to mixed stand thinning and clear felling in the range of 8-20 in. (205-510 mm) diameter timber.

5500 felling saw

- For drive-to-tree feller bunchers (718, 720, 724, 726)
- Accumulating area: 4.3 sq.ft.; 5.8 sq.ft. total (0.45; 0.54 m²)
- Single cut capacity: 23 in. (585 mm)
- Throat: 38 in. (965 mm)
- Weight: 5500 lbs. (2,495 mm)

The 5500 series saw is an excellent all-around dual post felling saw - good accumulating ability and well suited to mixed stands and large diameter saw timber in the range of 8-23 in. (205-585 mm)

Unlike the 5000 and 5600 models, the accumulating pocket is positioned closer to centre for the improved lateral stability required for felling larger trees.





5400 felling saw

- For drive-to-tree and track feller bunchers (718, 720, 724, 822, 830, 845, 860)
- Accumulating area: 3.7 sq.ft.; 5.0 sq.ft. total (0.34; 0.46 m²)
- Single cut capacity: 21.5 in. (550 mm)
- Throat: 42 in. (1,065 mm)
- Weight: 5200 lbs. (2,360 kg)

The single post 5400 saw is another great all-around choice for thinning and final felling in 8-22 in. (205-560 mm) diameter timber. Wrist options for track feller bunchers include 30, 110 and 340 degree rotators.

The unique three-arm accumulating system and patented asymmetric geometry allow for parallel stem alignment and excellent bunching ability.



5700 felling saw

- For drive-to-tree and track feller bunchers (724, 726, 860, 870)
- Accumulating area: 3.3 sq.ft.; 4.7 sq.ft. total (0.31; 0.44 m²)
- Single cut capacity: 23 in. (580 mm)
- Throat: 44 in. (1,120 mm)
- Weight: 6200 lbs. (2,810 kg)

The single post 5700 saw is the best option for large timber clear fall applications of over 18 in. (460 mm) diameter. This durable head maintains excellent balance and control of large trees. Wrist options for track feller bunchers include 30, 110 and 340 degree rotators.

Shears

Tigercat shears use a patented two-arm system to accumulate stems in parallel alignment. Shears are well suited to pulpwood thinning and final fell applications. The offset pocket promotes excellent forward visibility. Shears are a less expensive, lower maintenance alternative to felling saws.



1800 shear

- For drive-to-tree feller bunchers (718, 720, 724)
- Accumulating area: 4.9 sq.ft.; 5.3 sq.ft. total (0.46; 0.49 m²)
- Cut capacity: 18 in. (460 mm); hardwood 15 in. (380 mm)
- Weight: 5350 lbs. (2,425 kg)

2000 shear

- For drive-to-tree feller bunchers (718, 720, 724, 726)
- Accumulating area: 5.4 sq.ft.; 6.7 sq.ft. total (0.5; 0.62 m²)
- Cut capacity: 20 in. (510 mm); hardwood 16 in. (405 mm)
- Weight: 5800 lbs.

Cut-to-length



650 harvesting head

- For wheel and track harvesters (822, 845, Tigercat-Hemek H16)
- Cut capacity: 26 in. (650 mm)
- Feed speed: 0-17.5 ft/sec (0-5.3 m/sec)
- Feed force: 6200 lbf (28 kN)
- Weight: 2855 lbs (1,325 kg)

The Tigercat 650 is a durable and well-constructed harvesting head with efficient hydraulics for optimal fuel efficiency. The DASA computer system provides tight measuring tolerances and excellent control. Angled rollers provide improved feed force and reduced friction on the knives and rollers.

Tigercat Customers Speak out

Interview questions:

- 1. What made you buy your first Tigercat from an unknown company with an unproven product?**
- 2. Why did/would you buy subsequent machines?**
- 3. Can you recall an occasion where you received exceptional service/help from a Tigercat representative, engineer or factory person?**
- 4. Why do you think Tigercat has survived the mergers, acquisitions and intense competition from the big players in the forestry equipment business?**
- 5. What should Tigercat be doing in the next 10 years to help you grow and profit in your business?**



Dudley Wayne Brewer

In photograph: David Long (B&G Equipment), Heath Brewer, Johnny Allen, Dudley Wayne Brewer (owner), Trent Williams.

1. I was impressed with the heavy duty construction.
2. Good service from the '94 model 726. I am more impressed with the 630B than the 726.
3. The factory trip was the most impressive. Thoroughly enjoyed it.
4. Tigercat is independently owned and not for sale. How have they?
5. Keep things simple.



Spooley Smith

In photograph: Spooley Smith (owner), Bill Nunnery (B&G Equipment), Ronnie Williams and Randy Smith.

1. Confidence in the dealership at Magnolia.
2. I bought the prototype skidder because it was the first machine that would handle the size timber we were cutting. Strong structure and well put together.
3. The personal relationship with the people at the factory. Jon Cooper returned my call concerning a problem with the 630 while his wife was having a baby.
4. It is a damn good machine. I have never replaced center pins in the '94 model 720 (8273 hrs) or the '95 model 630 (12000+ hrs). Never packed a cylinder.
5. Lower the price of machines so we can afford to keep buying them.

Streamline Timber

In Photograph: **Whitney Ott**, (owner)

He owns: **2-240s, 2-720s, 3-630s**

1. The salesman. I was running a Barko, but was not happy with it. I had heard good things about Tigercat.
2. Good dealer [Tidewater, Walterboro] and machine service.
3. Well, I haven't really ever had any problems.
4. Good equipment service from the factory and dealer.
5. What should Tigercat be doing...? Keep prices on equipment and parts down.



Richardson logging Ltd.

Rick Richardson, (president)

1. I chose the Tigercat 845B harvester in December 1997 because of the strong undercarriage, swing table and boom structure. After previously having a CAT feller buncher for 10 years, I knew what I was looking for in a track machine. The Tigercat 845 met my specs right from the beginning.
2. We find the 845 very accessible and easy to work on. I have received professional answers to questions I've had about the Tigercat from individuals at Strongco and Ron Montgomery, William Liu and Chris Baldwin [Tigercat sales, engineering and district manager respectively]
3. Having the right machine for the job at hand and offering the service and support needed is where Tigercat has risen above the competition. The exchange programs offered to contractors by Tigercat are excellent.
4. The Tigercat 845 has been a good investment for Richardson Logging Ltd. All I hear from the supervisors, foremen and other contractors is the word 'Tigercat.' The combination of logging experience at Richardson Logging Ltd, operators and Tigercat technology is a good match.
5. I recently did a re-life on the '97 Tigercat 845 that took three months of work to complete. Contractors have to stretch 10 years of life out of the machines to survive the new lower rates that we are receiving from the company we are working for. Within that 10 years, I would like to see Tigercat offer factory re-lives on 5-year old machines. You have an excellent machine that you could do that with. I'm looking forward to having a new Tigercat someday in the future.

Spruce Falls Power and Paper Company

Now part of the Tembec group, Spruce Falls still run a company harvesting operation. They're responsible for delivering 600,000 cubic meters of wood to the mill yard every year. Operating temperatures in this part of the world can vary from -40°C to +35°C, and ground conditions vary from frozen to extremely soft.

To get this kind of wood to the mill in these types of conditions you need productive and reliable equipment. Spruce Falls today operates nine Tigercat feller bunchers, and have purchased a total of fourteen Tigercat 853E and 860 feller bunchers over the years. They are still running one of the original machines, an 853E with more than 15,000 hours.

Andre Lemaire, (maintenance and construction superintendent forest resource management)

1. The people in charge of Tigercat had a good reputation and we knew the machine was an improvement over the Koehring product. At the time, the direction of Tigercat, coupled with a strong dealer, was the best package on the market.
2. At the onset there were growing pains and part of the reason Spruce Falls bought subsequent machines was Tigercat's response to service issues. Tigercat, at the time, would help to resolve issues, something not seen in the past from other OEMs. Also, the performance and productivity of the machines were excellent.
3. On many occasions Tigercat would send out engineers to work on the machines.
4. Tigercat has been able to provide an exceptional service, quick response to issues and a good all-around product.
5. Continue to develop products that will lower our costs, increase our productivity and reduce site damage, like the ER boom.

A Message from the President...

Tigercat is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.

What started as a “never heard of ‘em” outfit from Canada, touring the southeastern United States with a lonely feller buncher on a lowboy, has become a premium quality, full-line logging equipment manufacturer with machines producing in forests throughout the world.

How did a half-dozen people and a single-machine product line transform into 250 people designing, building, marketing and supporting thirty different models of bunchers, skidders, loaders, felling heads, harvesters and forwarders?

Timing and a bit of luck are always good allies but far more important were our people.

In the beginning, we traveled the southeast and interviewed dozens of loggers, studying the shortcomings – and there were many – of existing drive-to-tree feller bunchers.

Then our small team designed and built a superior alternative, taking to heart all the comments and criticisms that we had solicited from the end users.

In hindsight everyone knows the 726 and 720 series feller bunchers are the most durable and reliable on the market. At the time, nobody had a clue; even we didn’t know for sure. It was our people who convinced rightfully skeptical dealers to stock the new 726 and loggers to purchase it. The saying, “people buy from people” was never more fitting.

Then the company grew and grew. Each new wave of people built on the experience, successes and failures of those who preceded them. And each new model built on the reputation of previous machines that had already gained market acceptance.

Although the company has grown, employees to a great degree still make their own decisions with respect to performance of their jobs. Our people are empowered to solve the customer’s problems. This, after all is our primary concern.

We have gathered the very finest group of engineers, assemblers, product support and customer service people in the industry. This is what separates us from our massive multinational competitors.

We developed and continue to expand an outstanding network of distributors in the US, across Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South America, Europe and Russia.

I would like to thank our dedicated distributor partners for their long-term commitment to and belief in Tigercat and I want to welcome our newest dealers who have recently come on board.

I also wish to thank our suppliers and vendors. Tigercat machines are only as good as the components they are made of. A continuing partnership with our vendors is extremely important to us.

Finally and most importantly, on behalf of everyone at Tigercat, I wish to thank every logger who has chosen to put a Tigercat on the job.

We like to think that our customers have benefited from owning Tigercat equipment – that the machines have improved productivity and added to the bottom line.

Without you, the customer, there would be no us. Because of this simple fact, it is our mission to listen and continue to develop equipment to make logging professionals more profitable and productive.

We also like to think that Tigercat innovations have benefited the industry as a whole, raising the bar for all forestry equipment manufacturers and lulling our competitors out of complacency to improve and develop their own products.

As Tigercat moves into its second decade, it faces many new challenges and many of our customers share in those challenges. We are all aware of this – no need to belabour the point. Suffice to say it will be more important than ever to adapt to new ideas and new realities.

Focus on this basic truism: Disruptive change, however stressful and uncomfortable creates new opportunity. Let us all move forward and seize new opportunities.

Anthony Iarocci, president of Tigercat standing in front of the first serial production 726 nearly 10 years after it was built.



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