

## IMPROVED HARVESTING METHODS

### EQUIPMENT SURVEY NOTES

#### RUBBER-TIRED SKIDDERS



Economical harvesting of low-quality or small-diameter timber requires efficient skidding equipment. One way of increasing efficiency of this equipment is to speed it up so that more loads per day can be handled by each unit. Several individuals in widely scattered areas recognize the problem and have developed rubber-tired skidding units.

A skidding unit developed in British Columbia is made from a truck with an arch mounted on it (fig. 1). This unit is used for salvage logging, picking up logs spilled along the logging road, and similar operations.

Several years ago a similar unit was developed in the Lake States. A smaller arch was used, and it was mounted on rollers that traveled in a channel-iron track. Loads were pulled up to the arch and then forward onto the truck. Thus, the front end of the load rested on a bunk over the axle. This unit was used in the winter to skid prebunched tree lengths 2-1/2 miles.

Similar units reported in eastern Canada and the Olympic Peninsula show the widespread need for this type of equipment. Machinery manufacturers have recognized these individual efforts, and they have produced rubber-tired skidders with arches (fig. 2). These units have empty speeds up to 30 miles per hour, and they are easily maneuvered into position for loading. They materially reduce the empty-trip time and loading time in the woods and thus make it possible to yard timber faster over longer distances.

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Figure 1. --Rubber-tired skidder used in British Columbia.  
(Courtesy "Truck, Logger")



Figure 2. --Commercial model of rubber-tired skidder.

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