Pioneer Log Homes on the road to bigger and better buildings

By Judy Jenkins

Bryan Reid established Pioneer Log Homes in 1973. He and brother and general manager Andre Chevigny, who came on board in 1987, have guided Pioneer through rapid expansion over the years.

The company started at Pioneer Ranch at 150 Mile House and moved to its current location on land leased from Williams Lake Indian Band about 10 years ago. Since then the company has opened two new sites located at Soda Creek and Nimpo Lake.

Pioneer manufactures custom, handcrafted log homes and commercial structures targeted primarily for market in the U.S, with smaller markets in Europe and Canada. The diversity of these markets allows the company to keep 70 individuals employed full time year round, and the production sites are booked into 2004.

They train staff on the job and have nine apprentices at work under the new provincial log builder apprenticeship program. Four of the apprentices will be starting their first stint in school in 100 Mile House in February.

In addition to the local workforce, there is a U.S. sales and design division and construction crew that totals 20 employees, and an expanding sales division in Germany with three employees.

The most obvious project currently in production is the 104,000 square foot log home being built at the Williams Lake site south of the city
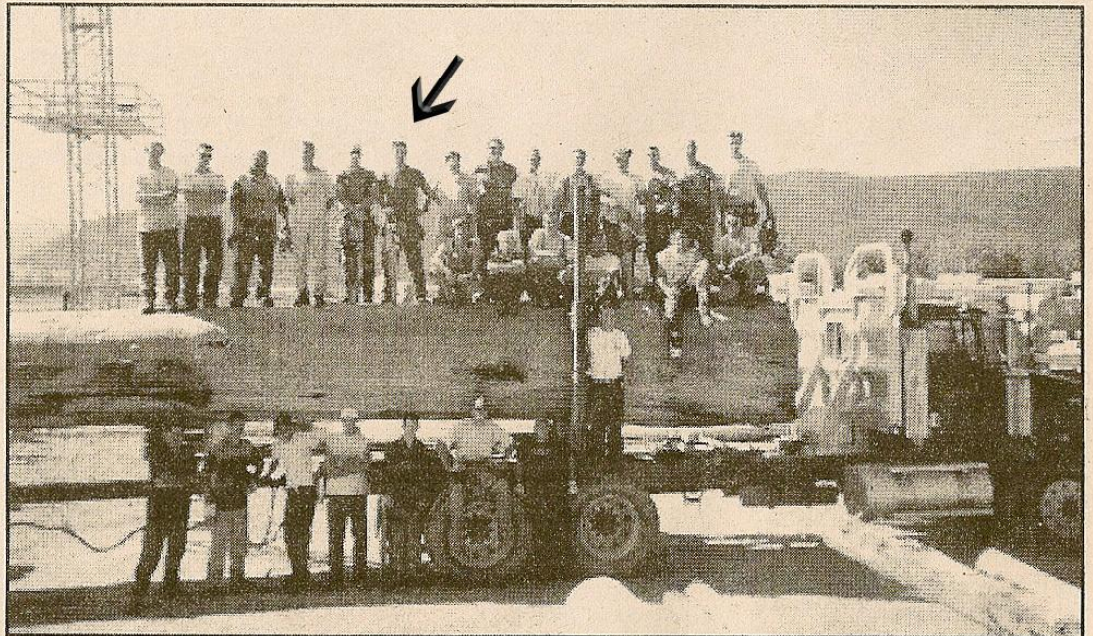
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nportant meeting

Pioneer Log Homes employees surround huge building log. On top are Nathon Hornby, Mike Wessels, Wilfred Aksidan, Tim Elliot, Mark Wessels, Gabriel Zuloff, Shawn Carlson, Joey Alphonse, Dean Coakley, Dennise Shewchuk, Wilfred Louie, Derek Keesen, Dave Clarke, Joel Roords; Sitting on log, Kevin McCabe, Danielle Dubelow, Kurt Fischer, Kevin Erns, Mark Isaacson and Dean Boyd; Front, Nicholas Setah, Zac Pinette, James Kantymir, Garth Norris, Eric Jeannotte, Trent Goertz, Bryce Peterson, and on truck tire, Peter Arnold.