

The story behind the 10 Paul Bunyan “Resting Chairs”

There are Paul Bunyan Resting Chairs in all 10 of the towns in the River Valley.
The River Valley Chamber of Commerce placed chairs and sign kiosks in each town

How Paul Bunyan settled in the River Valley

Traveling with his pal “Blue”, Paul Bunyan wanted to see the land in the Western Mountains of Maine, which is now called the “River Valley.”

Paul and Blue first stopped in a little rural town called (1)Rumford where Paul and Blue swam at the base of Pennacook Falls. They both really liked this area; they could swim, fish, camp out and just enjoy the lay of the land that God created.

As days went by, Paul decided that before he settled on where he was going to call home, he would visit some of the other towns and see what they had to offer. He and Blue set out up over Falls Hill and traveled on to a town called (2)Hanover.

Hanover was a nice, small town with its own pond and lots of countryside to farm and log. He decided to camp there for a few nights at Howard Pond and to build himself a “Resting Adirondack Chair” for when he just wanted to relax and enjoy nature.

After a few days and nights in Hanover Paul and Blue were onto the next town called Andover.

Andover was a lot like Hanover, with its rolling countryside and charm of another farm town with lots of trees to log. Paul and Blue camped in (3)Andover right beside the covered bridge where he could fish for his meals and bath after doing some logging and farming.

His second “Resting Adirondack Chair” was built but not used as he and Blue were onto the next little town called (4)Roxbury.

Over the mountains they went and landed in a town called Roxbury where they, too, had a pond of their own and nice farming and logging venues. Camping at Roxbury Pond with a campfire going and listening to nature sing a third “Resting Adirondack Chair” was built for Paul to sit and relax in while listening to the loons on the pond. Blue would lay beside him and stare at the stars in the sky.

From Roxbury, Paul and Blue hiked down over the notch in Roxbury, through their town and onto a place that had a beautiful gorge that could be used for fishing, swimming, gold panning and more.

It was called (5)Coos Canyon and it was a perfect place to build the fourth “Resting Adirondack Chair” and camp out to view what Byron had to offer.

Paul had a great time jumping off the ledges of the gorge and into the cool waters that awaited him. Blue couldn’t join him as the ledges were too much for an ox but he sure did enjoy the campfires, fireflies and the sounds of nature in the evenings.

While there, Paul was gold panning and found some gold nuggets and wanted to bring them to a bank to get money for more supplies so he and Blue headed down the road towards a town which was called (6)Mexico.

Mexico was on the outskirts of a mill town with lots of logging and farming being done in this area. Paul waved to the locals in town as he sought out a bank to sell his gold nuggets and decided to camp by the river for a couple of days to see what this town was all about.

A fifth “Resting Adirondack Chair” was built so that Paul could watch the logs rolling down the river and see how the men worked the wood to the Rumford Mill. In talking with some of the loggers in the area, Paul learned that all these small towns along the river had so much wealth in the river and its resources.

One of the loggers asked Paul if he could borrow his ox to do some logging in the towns of Dixfield and Carthage within the next few weeks; he could pay Paul for the use of his ox Blue and Paul could surely use the money to buy more supplies for himself and his ox.

So, onto Dixfield they went, where they camped for 3 days on their main street by the river so that it would be close to where they were logging. A sixth "Resting Adirondack Chair" was built in (7)Dixfield while Paul and Ox were there visiting.

As a thank you to the town for being so nice while they were there, Paul carved out a Moose and named him Bullrock, after a ledge in that town to show his appreciation.

Onto (8)Carthage to log now with Blue so over the mountain they went and into this little town where logging was going on everywhere. Roads were being built, land cultivated as these townspeople were eager to have their own town to live in.

Paul camped out in the center of town near a brook so he and Blue could bath, swim and fish when they weren't working the land. Hence, a seventh "Resting Adirondack Chair" was built; Paul had quite a collection of chairs going on.

Paul and Blue bid farewell to the townspeople of Carthage and headed back over the mountain to a little town called (9)Canton.

A town similar to Carthage in many ways; beautiful countryside and miles and miles of farming and logging going on. He and Blue settled in at a small lake where there was plenty of fish to catch and beautiful sunsets to watch.

"Resting Adirondack Chair" number eight was built there and Paul really enjoyed sitting on the beach with his feet in the water in the evenings listening to the loons on the lake. Peace and quiet. Paul and Blue were invited to go with some of the local townspeople to a little town called (10)Peru where there was going to be an auction of farming and logging equipment. Paul liked that idea as he soon had to be making his choice as to what town he was going to call home as winter was going to be setting in soon.

Visiting Peru would be next on his travels so off they went.

In Peru, Paul saw a lot of unclaimed countryside for farming and logging. However, he didn't find a pond that was close enough to where he wanted to settle down without going over the mountain.

A "Resting Adirondack Chair" - the ninth - was built where he and Blue camped out while looking over the lay of the land and pondering in which town he was going to call home.

Paul weighed all of the little towns that he had visited and thought long and hard about what each town offered.

He still needed to turn in his gold nuggets and heard that Rumford had the bank in which he could do so off he and Blue went to sell his gold and get supplies to settle in for the long winter months ahead.

In Rumford, once again, Paul and Blue visited their first "resting place" taking in the sounds of the mill with its logs to make paper, the spectacular sight of the Pennacook Falls and all that this little mill town had to offer and decided to call Rumford his home. Paul's final "Resting Adirondack Chair" was built near the edge of the falls and he and Blue made their home there.

This map, created by Brent Bachelder, shows all the Paul Bunyan chairs in the 10 member River Valley towns. The giant-sized Adirondack chairs are scaled to our Paul Bunyan statue in Rumford.

Spending some time in Paul Bunyan's Resting Adirondack Chair in Rumford are Rachel Calden of Rumford, with her son, Jackson Brown, and their dog, Roscoe.