

# THE FAMILY TREE

## The Year Ahead And Beyond

C. L. BILLINGS, Gen. Mgr.

AN ALTERED set of circumstances greeted P.F.I. on January 1st, 1946 as compared to January 1st, 1945.

In that year a two-continent war ended and shipments of our lumber to far away corners of the globe largely ended too. But, order files that were jammed and overflowing on 1-1-45 were still jammed and overflowing on 1-1-46 although the customers were not the same, nor their wants. There was need for another kind of lumber.

### The Mixed Woods

During the war large quantities of green lumber were shipped and the demand for our secondary species was strong and good. For practical accounting pur-



P.F.I. bosses—Assistant General Managers Rettig and Huffman . . . General Manager Billings . . . Assistant General Manager Leuschel.

poses the orders for green lumber ceased with the war's end and the quantity of lumber so marketed in the war years must now be further processed or not find a sale. There is still a market for almost any kind of lumber, but our mixed goods will once again, and soon, be in competition with lumber of other areas where conditions of production are more favorable than our ownership.

Idaho White Pine has always com-

manded a premium price and will continue to do so. It is the secondary species, of which we have substantial quantity, that must engage the kind of competition that in pre-war days made it impossible for these species to pay their way out of the woods. It is going to be a tough job to find and develop steady, dependable markets for the mixed woods. The alternative is to go back to an exclusive White Pine basis with consequent loss of volume and reduction of crews.

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Lewiston, Idaho, February 1946



*The  
Red  
Cross*

IN MARCH the American Red Cross will seek funds, nationally, to support its many activities in the war stricken areas of the world, as well as here at home. The worth of this organization is beyond question, and it has so often been the only bright spot in so many dark corners of the earth as to need no eulogy.

The opportunity to share in the financing of its services is more privilege than obligation. If you haven't availed yourself of the privilege . . . DO SO!

## Governor to Serve As Honorary Chairman of Keep Idaho Green Committee

Announcement that Governor Arnold Williams will act as honorary chairman of a Keep Idaho Green Committee, made up of ranchers, cattlemen, sportsmen, wool growers, timber owners, and other interested individuals, was made on February 22nd from the state capital.

The undertaking will be jointly sponsored by the Idaho Junior Chamber of Commerce and the committee of which Governor Williams is honorary chairman and J. O. McMurray, of Boise, is executive chairman.

### Commendable Goal

The extremely commendable goal of the movement is to effect a reduction in the number of man-caused range and forest fires. Publicity and educational programs of various and varied sorts will be tried. All will be pitched at awakening public consciousness to proper appreciation of the destructive force of range and forest fires, plus realization of the inexcusable carelessness that each year produces many of the fires.

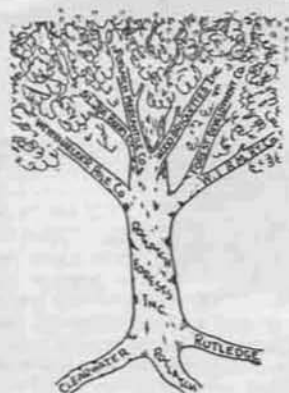
Thirteen states have similar programs and eight others have been reported as likely to adopt some such program in 1946.

### Editorial Comment

The proposed program has attracted much attention about the state. General opinion of its worth is well spoken

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## THE FAMILY TREE



Published by Potlatch Forests, Inc., Once  
Monthly for Free Distribution to Employees

Editor ..... Leo Bodine

## Correspondents

Robt. Billings ..... Rutledge

Mabel Kelley ..... Potlatch

Charles Epling ..... Clearwater Plant

Carl Pease ..... Headquarters

## This Fits . . . Everything

An old, old legend of the far East relates that a beggar one day met his king on the highway. The royal chariot stopped, and the beggar expected alms. Instead, the king asked, "What hast thou for me?"

The beggar grudgingly took from his half-filled food bag a single grain of corn and gave it to the monarch. After the chariot moved on, he found a nugget of gold in his bag, and realized that if he had given the king a handful of corn, he would have received a hundred nuggets in return.

The moral is obvious. The measure of what we get out of life is determined by what we give. The things which collectively add up to successes or failures, triumphs or tragedies, are the product of what effort has been spent.

## The Future . . . . .



## Worth Repeating

The last paragraph of the Boise Statesman's editorial on the subject of keeping Idaho green is worth repeating—often—"By all means within each of our powers, let us all cooperate in being considerate and careful and, thus, 'keep Idaho green'."

P.F.I.'s best wishes for the success of this undertaking go to the Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Keep Idaho Green Committee. The renowned energy of Junior Chamber, harnessed to the very natural interest of individuals and corporations who have ownership in range or forest, should go far toward eliminating man-caused fires.

## Professor John Huff

On January 9th, tire doctor John Huff also became professor John Huff, serving as a lecturer on the subject of correct tire inflation, proper wheel and rim size, right tire for the job, etc., at a meeting of the AAA and 4-H in Moscow, Idaho. The farmers were after information and the tire doctor reports a hectic afternoon of questioning. (Serves him right—what did he expect—co-eds.)

## Woodcutters

Two enterprising young men at Headquarters, with enough vim and vigor left over from their labors to permit week-end wood cutting excursions are reported to have saved the day as far as fuel is concerned for Headquarters residents. The gentlemen have done their physical selves plenty of good in the process, are reported to be in top condition and although the cords of wood they cut will reach no astronomical figure the idea seems good.

But, there is another side to the story. Nasty rumor has it that one of the gentlemen, who normally handles all orders for Pres-to-logs will henceforth forget to turn in any such orders for Headquarters so that the wood business may flourish. Sounds a bit like restraint of trade . . . possibly there should be an investigation and application of the Sherman anti-trust law, or some such animule.

It has been said that the only thing we know about tomorrow is—that tomorrow it will be here! BUT, the experiences of the past few years have taught us as a nation, something else. We know that the KIND of tomorrow we can look forward to will depend in very great measure upon what we do about it—TODAY!

You can build a future, the KIND you want, bond by bond if you regularly invest a percentage of each month's wages in government bonds. FOR THE FUTURE—BUY BONDS!!!



## Thirsty Metal

Powder metallurgy won't keep the shine of a stenographer's nose, but it will keep ink off her fingers. It's a revolutionary way of making metal objects, and one of the many new wonders of science which will help create an easier-to-work-in world. One example is a ribbonless typewriter.

By using the process of powder metallurgy to combine ink with a porous metal, manufacturers foresee a new kind of typewriter without a ribbon. Ink would be stored in the keys themselves, and make an impression when the keys strike the paper.

Housewives will no longer have to apply the oil can to washing machine or refrigerator. Self-lubricating bearings built into the appliance will eliminate the messy job. Powder metallurgy can combine a powdered lubricant with metals and the porous bearing will give up the oil like a sponge.

Many metal objects, which heretofore took hours to shape, can now be made by pouring finely powdered metal into a mold, putting it under a pressure of several tons at a high temperature. Intricate machine parts are now made this way.

These and hundreds of other uses of powder metallurgy are here or just over the horizon.

## From Lt. Walt Mallory, India

Recently received my fourth Xmas box from P.F.I. Made an occasion out of it by offering to bet anyone present five rupees that after the box was opened and the entire contents removed that no one could put the contents back in the box so the lid would fit tight in five minutes. It was a good bet.

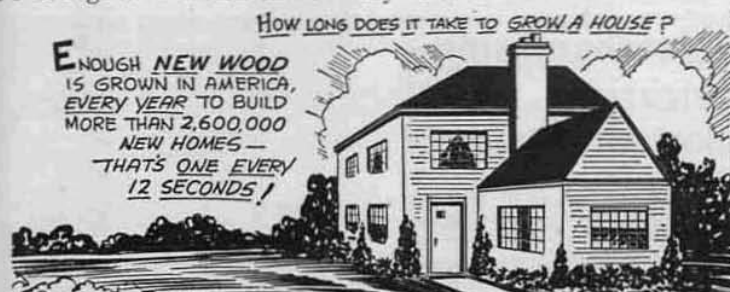
As to the India Burma situation . . . it seems as though in the Army if you ever once stick your elbows on a desk you can never get them loose again . . . that is where mine are right now. I am adjutant of the 88th Quartermaster Bn. Mobile located in the Brahmaputra Valley in the heart of Assam Province, India. When the war was over the army had thousands of tons of supplies and equipment in depots and dumps in Assam and Burma which were originally scheduled for shipment over the road to China. The war ends, no more Lend Lease, and the Army is stuck with all this stuff. Right now things are looking good. All the stuff has been hauled out of Burma and everything here has been consolidated at railroad sidings. It looks good . . . yes, but try and sell it. Pressure from home won't allow anything to be destroyed. A good example is a Remount Squadron located a few hundred miles from here. They have a few thousand pack mules. It costs around \$50 per month to keep a mule over here. They can't sell them, they can't kill them, and already since the war is over they have cost us more than the damn beasts are worth.

TRUE . . . Even the woodpecker owes his success to the fact that he uses his head. . . . Coleman Cox.



## Billings Talks At NITC

There is more land growing timber crops today than there is growing all other crops combined and every twelve seconds enough wood is grown in the U. S. for a house," said P.F.I. boss C. L. Billings to students of the North Idaho Teacher's College in Lewiston on February 26th.



From President Glenn Todd of NITC, following Mr. Billings' speech to an assembly of NITC students and faculty . . .

"On behalf of the faculty and students of Lewiston State Normal School, I wish to thank you for your most interesting and informative talk. We consider it a privilege to have men from business organizations at our assemblies to tell of their industries. Our students are most appreciative."

## From Ensign Thad Hansen, Somewhere in the Pacific

Just received the P.F.I. Xmas box. A fine assortment of articles, packed very compactly . . . want to congratulate you on a wise selection . . . looking forward to April as the month I once again become a civilian. Will be glad to get back to Lewiston and P.F.I.

## Baggs and Coon Get Promotions

Belatedly announced by *The Tree*, with apologies for unseemly tardiness, are the promotions of forester Jack Baggs and cook Al Coon.

Jack will now handle all purchase of contract logs in the Clearwater, taking over the work of Al Rosholt, who has left P.F.I. employ, and will continue to look after some department work.

Bill is now to act in the capacity of master cook and dietitian. It will be his job to supervise, advise and make needed changes in P.F.I.'s feeding of its loggers.

Both promotions go to men who have long worked for the company, and by virtue of long experience are particularly well qualified for their new jobs. CONGRATULATIONS and BEST WISHES TO THEM!

"What makes you so dirty?" asked the neighbor.

"Well," replied the little lady of 5, "you gave my brother a nickel to go wash his face yesterday."

Lawyer (to gorgeous witness): "Answer Yes or No!"

Gorgeous Witness: "My . . . my, but you're a fast worker!"

Mr. Billings went on to state that the forest industry was the first business in America and has always been characterized by the number of its small operators. The industry has played a major role in making possible high American standards of living by furnishing cheap housing. Idaho, he said, has led the entire U. S. in forestry, particularly in achieving cooperative timber protection, compulsory patrol of forested lands, classification of lands for reforestation, and in the establishment of a state board of forestry.

Words of praise were paid early day pioneers in fire protection for forest lands and it was noted that Idaho among all the states of the union pioneered fire protection for forest lands. Makeshift equipment, a rough wilderness with few roads, and comparative inexperience were obstacles overcome by dogged, determined, unrelenting effort.

## Parker At Society of American Foresters

Joe Parker, logging superintendent for P.F.I. at Bovill, was guest speaker at a meeting of the Society of American Foresters, Inland Empire Section, in Pullman on February 23rd.

Speaking on the subject of fire protection Parker told his audience of foresters that the axe, shovel and mattock (or pulaski) will never be replaced as a fire kit, but that, as areas become opened up with roads, more and better types of fire fighting equipment will appear and will have real value.

The bulldozer was named as an important road builder and fire fighter and the possibilities for its use were discussed. A water tank of 1,000 to 1,500 gallons capacity mounted on a good truck with a Pacific Pumper unit or fog nozzle was mentioned as particularly valuable for dry side hills where no water is otherwise available. The new type fog nozzle, with high pressure pump, has great possibilities when proper arrangements are made for its use.

## Intermountain Logging Congress

The Intermountain Logging Congress, with P.F.I.'s Harry Rooney presiding as president of the congress, will meet in Spokane April 4th, 5th and 6th. The first two days will be given to a Mechanic's Training School, the third to a discussion of subjects of general interest to the industry. Prior to the Congress, and in conjunction with it, will be held a two-days "Woods Products Clinic" under auspices of the Timber Products Bureau of the Spokane Chamber of Commerce.

"Why don't you divorce your husband if you don't love him any more?"

"I don't want to give him the satisfaction of seeing my mother leave his house forever."

Any off-guard minute may have an accident in it. **THINK SAFETY AND PRACTICE IT!**

Conscience gets a lot of credit that actually belongs to cold feet.

## Workman Responsibility

An interesting story appears in the September issue of "Engineering for Safety," monthly newsletter of the American Society of Safety Engineers. It covers what they believe to be the first conviction of an employee for the violation of the state labor laws in regard to safety.

The case occurred in the state of New York and involved three employees who refused to wear protective goggles. They were brought into court on the complaint of an inspector of the Division of Industrial Safety, State Department of Labor.

A prolonged lecture was given the offenders on their responsibilities under the labor law and nominal fines were assessed with a warning that a second offense would produce harsher treatment.

It is interesting to note this establishment of judicial precedence.

—From *Safer Oregon*  
Editor . . . Robt. M. Evendon  
(one time editor of *The Family Tree*).

A-B-C. Always be careful. Safety pays!

THE TIME  
TO THINK  
ABOUT  
SAFETY IS  
BEFORE  
YOU GET  
HURT



## The Year Ahead

(Continued from page one)

There is, at the moment, neither cause for alarm that we shall never be able to find a quantity market for the mixed woods, nor much reason for jubilation. The shook slicing plant, the tandem resaws in the box factory, the glued up casket boxes, the fence post treating plant and other contemplated additions to our plants have more than the usual significance of new machinery to produce a new product. They are the first results of an aggressive pursuit of markets for secondary species. Still more outlets must be found. The items mentioned show what we are striving to do. If we succeed, the size of our holdings will in effect have been increased in that timber which has little value will become merchantable. This will mean greater security, additional guarantee of the permanency of P.F.I., more jobs and job opportunities, and better farming of our lands for the growing of timber.

### Housing . . . Inventories . . . Shipments

A housing shortage, in the making since 1927, has become acute. Our inventories (as throughout the industry) are at an all time low and miss by many millions of feet the stock of lumber always thought to be a working minimum. Even so, customers are going to expect pre-war quality, or better, and justly so. The competition for customer favor and orders will become keen, shortage of lumber or not.

Ending inventory (all lumber)	
1938 .....	136,891*
Ending inventory (all lumber)	
1944 .....	61,853
Ending inventory (all lumber)	
1945 .....	51,062
Shipments 1938 .....	200,345
Shipments 1944 .....	362,702
Shipments 1945 .....	335,259

\*In thousands of board feet.

### Problems of Manufacture

Rough country and the size of our timber are distinct disadvantages and were among the handicaps that forced secondary species off the market in pre-war days. We must employ a man in the woods for every man employed in our mills but competitors employ only one lumberjack to two or three millmen because of larger timber and better ground. In the case of west coast producers we suffer the added penalty of the advantage they enjoy in water transportation through the Panama Canal to eastern markets.

The average selling price of P.F.I. lumber in 1945 increased only twenty-six cents per thousand feet . . . wages increased 12½ cents per hour in November and another 2½ cents on January 1, 1946. During the last half of the year we practically broke even. In the last quarter of the year we incurred a substantial loss, but, in all the turmoil about prices, the western pine area has yet to receive constructive attention from the Office of Price Administration. It would seem, in the light of our last six months operations, that an increase in lumber prices must, and should be granted to bring the

western pine area into a relationship on a par with that granted other areas.

We cannot expect to make much profit in 1946 but we are determined for the ultimate benefit of our employees, stockholders and our home communities to do our best to develop markets for the mixed woods.

## Sales-Merchandising-Prefabrication

O. H. LEUSCHEL, *Ass't Gen. Mgr.*

Orders in 1946, and very probably for some time beyond, are going to lead production. With lumber inventories at an all-time low, making it necessary to rely very largely on current production, the pressing problem at this time is to see that our products are distributed fairly to our regularly established customers, who for the most part have uncomplainingly gotten along as best they could with very little lumber throughout the war years.

### From Alleman Lumber Co. Alleman, Iowa

"Thanks very much for such a swell car of lumber. Grades were very good. We were entirely out of boards before this car arrived and I wish it were possible to get several more cars. We appreciate your efforts to meet our needs and the cars you have been able to give us. Idaho White Pine and Weyerhaeuser fir dimension is our lumber . . . H. T. Heggum."

Through the war years the Clearwater, Potlatch and Rutledge plants have maintained without relaxation their peace time standards of manufacture, grading and millwork. We have received many letters from customers, as well as Weyerhaeuser Sales Company representatives, telling us of the pride with which a dealer has received and can exhibit a shipment from one of our plants . . . dry, well graded and well milled. This is certainly the very best form of advertising and merchandising and can be counted upon to capture good will.

During the war our box factory produced almost entirely shell cases, TNT boxes, powder and ration boxes. All of this type business was cancelled immediately after VJ day and there was need for a quick conversion to the production of fruit, meat, butter, and various industrial boxes.

Fortunately we were in position to convert a large part of our shook production to fresh fruit and vegetable boxes for the Washington and California markets which were, and still are, facing a shortage of containers. We are now also trying to develop markets in the growing areas of Colorado and Texas and it is our hope and belief that we will develop some good outlets there.

Shook shipments 1935-39	
average .....	5,237,543 Bd. ft.
Shook shipments 1944 .....	34,898,506 "
Shook shipments 1945 .....	30,215,976 "



Casket Boxes

Although not particularly pleasant to contemplate for personal use, these glued-up panels of White Fir for casket boxes have provided a sizeable outlet for a part of P.F.I.'s mixed woods. The panel makes up into a much better, and less expensive, box than does tongue and groove stock nailed to a cross cleat. Credit a new outlet for White Fir to P.F.I. research and product development.

### Prefabrication

We are hearing a great deal about the use of steel, aluminum, plastics, etc., in small-home construction. Undoubtedly some or all of these materials will find a place in the building industry. Prefabrication also has a very big spot in the picture, although up to this time the development in this field has run to items of more or less temporary type. Something of real value and worth will come from these efforts with wood one of the important materials used.

In our opinion lumber will always be an essential material to the substantial, prospective homeowner who wants a comfortable place, well planned and built for permanence.

As in the past, there will be stiff competition from both within and without the industry to keep us on our toes. In our society, which has thrived on a constant, never-ending struggle to produce better and more merchantable products, this is as it should be.

## New Product Development

ROY HUFFMAN, *Ass't Gen. Mgr.*

The following described operations will employ labor in varying numbers and in the aggregate will account for employment of a considerable number of additional employees. All of the projects mentioned give promise of being permanent and steady operations. They are pointed at a three-pronged goal—reduction of waste material that develops in the manufacturing of lum-



... further processing; and, most important of all, the production of better forest products at lower prices for the service and of more people.

#### Veneer Slicing Plant

This plant has been in operation since the first of November, and we have learned a great deal about the requirements of such an operation since that time. We are gradually getting the kinks ironed out and the operation is coordinated. The engineering department is engaged in building a machine to make unitized covers using glue instead of stitching wire. We are anxiously awaiting the completion of the machine.

#### Post Treating Plant

The plant for manufacturing and treating triple-Life fence posts, using pentachlorophenol treatment, is under construction and going along well. Materials are arriving as scheduled and the plant should be ready to operate by the middle of May, unless some unforeseen happening interferes.

#### Edging Recovery Plant

The engineering work on this plant, which is planned as an addition to the sawmill building at Clearwater and which will recover and manufacture all of the edgings produced in the sawmill into pieces of maximum usable width and length, has almost been completed. Most of the material and equipment has been purchased, but delivery of electric drives will probably be very slow. It is difficult to predict at this time when the project will be complete and in operation.

#### Hog Fuel Dryer

This installation at Clearwater is almost complete, except for a strike bound conveyor, which is essential to the dryer. When we expect to dry enough wet refuse to operate at least four Pres-to-logs machines. As soon as we get it functioning, we want to install one more stoker machine, and at that time consider the advisability of enlarging the Pres-to-logs plant to accommodate additional machines that can be operated.

#### Wide Glued Cut Stock

We are developing a considerable volume of business in wide glued boards cut to length. We expect this department to require the operation of all the cut-off saws, at least two (possibly three) shifts, with the operation of the wide board glue machine stepped up to two and perhaps three shifts.

#### Knot Sealers

We are having two more knot sealers built, similar to the one now in operation at Clearwater, which has proven successful. One of the machines will be installed at Potlatch, the other at Rutledge.

#### Glued Laminated Arches

We are making preparations to manufacture small radius, glued, laminated arches at Potlatch for small farm buildings, in order to test out the marketability of this product.

## Woods Operations

E. C. RETTIG, *Ass't. Gen. Mgr.*

Last month the auditing and bookkeeping department had their inning and scored many a homer by expressing long pent-up gripes. My face is still red as some of the gripes seemed to whisper as I read them—"You Are the Guilty Guy."

My personal pet gripe, like Phil Pratt, is against the editor. For many months I indulged in comparative obscurity and enjoyed it, even succeeded in getting out of town and returning once without the news-hawk recording it. Further, why does he come into at almost the last moment and cry, "I want a story quick." "Must have it by Tuesday." "Can do?"

Well—can do . . . here is.

The 1946 logging plans for the different units of the company are still in a somewhat questionable stage. There are a number of problems to solve before a definite answer is possible as to just which camps will operate.

The price of lumber is one very important item right now. Operating costs are such that species of woods have little or no value.

Labor is another unknown quantity. Skilled labor is apt to be quite scarce. If we are to open the river camps, which we hope to do, our labor requirement will be much greater than in previous years. Our river camps represent excess log production for this year as the logs cannot be driven before the spring of 1947.

#### Equipment

Equipment is scarce and this situation is not apt to improve very soon unless the government moves more rapidly in declaring usable war equipment surplus and selling it to the public.

On the Clearwater we have a number of rail camps that can be operated. Two old familiars are Camps 11 and 14 on the Beaver Creek railroad, which were closed during most of the war period. We wish to get Camp 14 into production again this summer but it is doubtful that we can open Camp 11 until later. During the summer Camps 14, 56, and either 54 or 60 will undoubtedly operate on our railroads. At the moment I cannot state just which two of the three truck camps (43, 57 and 58) will operate. Camp 58 will operate definitely, but a choice will have to be made between Camps 53 and 57.

On the river there are four camps established, J, U, W, and X. Camp X will require the least repair work to place in operation and we hope to get it into production.

(Continued on page six)

## Fence Post Plant Taking Shape

The building, lower left, which will house machinery necessary to the manufacture of fence posts, is near completion except for actual placing of machinery within the building.

To this building, direct from the sawmill, will arrive green cants 3 x 6 size, 12 to 18 feet long. A pull cut-off saw will cut the cants into post lengths of six to eight feet. Next operation will be to diagonally rip the cants to get desired post size. Then follows sharpening and incising to insure better penetration of treating fluid. The top of the post will also be tapered slightly to permit use of a driving cap which can be slipped over the post top to eliminate danger of splitting when driving the post into the ground with maul or sledge.

From the post plant proper, the untreated posts will be carried via narrow gauge rail cars to a treating plant, now under construction some hundred yards or so away from the plant building (see picture lower right). Here the posts will be carried through three baths, or stages of treatment, on an automatic chain. Final color of the post after treatment will be a light to medium dark brown.

The treating plant will also be able to treat lumber up to a 3 x 12 size, and in lengths up to twenty feet, should a market be found, or developed, for treated planking. Eight to ten men will likely be employed by the plant after it gets into operation.

Left—Fence post manufacturing plant . . . near completion.

Below—Treating plant for fence posts, and lumber if need be, is taking shape some hundred yards or so away from other plant buildings.





### SUMMIT LOOKOUT . . .

There was much evidence of spring in the woods on March 1st and the feel of it was in the air, but at Summit Lookout there was still evidence of winter. A hefty snow cap adorned the roof of the lookout shack at the tower's base. For comparison each succeeding year we recommend a March 1st trip to Summit with a camera, but not necessarily for the editor.

## Woods Operation

(Continued from page five)

tion this summer. Camp U will possibly get the nod also, if manpower and equipment is available. It is doubtful that we can get underway at Camps J and W until next year as there is too much repair work to be done before logging can commence.

Not quite the same problems confront us at Bovill as cause difficulty in deciding which camps to operate in the Clearwater. Camps Upper 36, 40 and 44 are summer camps and we will get back to them as quickly as possible. We must save Camps 42 and 45 for winter operations.

### Gypso Operations

Contract and purchase logging will be carried forward under the supervision of Jack Baggs for the Clearwater Unit. He can put logs either in the river or on rail and we hope he gets plenty of each.

A. A. Segersten looks after contract and purchase logs for Potlatch and has a number of contracts lined up for this year.

C. O. Graue buys some logs, with delivery direct to the Rutledge mill.

As for total production about all that I can say is, "We will do our best to keep the mills in logs."

### Some New Items

The editor wants to know if we have any new devices or methods up our sleeves. We have a few at the moment and the woods brain factories are at work every day. Additional ones may be manufactured ere the ink of this report has dried.

Portable power units have been purchased and when wiring materials are available there will be electric lights and radio power in all woods camps. Power tools for shop and kitchen will be possible as also will heaters to keep motors warm on winter nights and enable easy starting of equipment in the morning. Camp water can be pumped and purified properly.

There are a number of studies being carried on by the woods foremen which we hope will be beneficial. Bob Olin has a few radical changes that he is working on at odd moments and expects to spring on us soon.

A lot of work has been done by John Huff on tread design of truck tires and also

on tire inflation. John has developed a new tread design that appears to have real possibilities for increasing tire mileage and giving better traction. Even the tire companies are showing sufficient interest to send their engineers out to inspect the few test tires that we have in use. Huge tires, capable of supporting thirty tons on one tire also lend themselves to much speculation. Tires of this sort are now in service elsewhere. They have as many as thirty-six plies, contact road surfaces with so many square inches of tire face as to literally float over bad stretches of road . . . range up to nine feet in diameter.

Joe Parker has designed a new bunkhouse that shows possibilities of real fuel savings. Bob Bowling should not inspect this stove too closely as there appears to be considerable similarity between it and one of his design for burning Pres-to-logs.

Another new practice started by Joe is the unloading of logs direct from truck to car. The transfer of logs is faster and it is much easier on both the trucks and jammers. Joe is thoroughly sold on this method of handling logs at the landings.

We have been experimenting with set jammers on Clearwater railroad operations but do not wish to discuss this at the present time.

Light metals and their application to new equipment is another thing that has attracted much attention. We have tried magnesium wedges at Camp 58 and found them quite satisfactory and highly acceptable to the men.

## Woods News

### Camp 55—Lower Alder Creek

Warmer temperatures and good weather have everyone in the groove at Camp 55. Only disturbing thing is that spring weather also means mud. We have fifteen gangs of sawyers and seven cats skidding. Cooks Milus and Louchuk are back at work after a short vacation last month.

### Camp 57—Breakfast Creek

We have had ourselves a time. February is a bad, bad month for snow in this drainage. Depths of seven and eight feet prevailed during most of last month and the patrol, the snow plow and dozers were kept busy just plowing roads. Although the snow season is definitely over, there will still be some big piles here for quite some time to come.

Naturally enough, saw gangs were reluctant about working when the snow got bad. This caused a lay-off for some of the cat crews and of course meant fewer log trucks at work.

### Camp 54—Washington Creek

Snow diminishing, mud about due. The American loader "snafued" on us during the last month and was hauled down to Headquarters for major repairs. As a result of the breakdown, cat skimmers and choker setters teamed up as sawyers and Joe LaMotte found nine more saw gangs on his hands, with saws to be filed. All Joe said was "!!-??!!" . . . and sounded as if he really meant it.

(Continued on page seven)

## Wood Briquettes, Inc.

ROY HUFFMAN  
Gen. Mgr.



As often heard nowadays . . . "There is always something." In the case of Wood Briquettes, Inc., it is the current electrical workers' strike.

Before this strike occurred, deliveries on electric motors and controls were on about an eight months' basis. That was bad enough, but nevertheless it was possible to plan the future on a definite schedule. The existing strike has resulted in a situation that leaves us entirely up in the air as to when we can expect deliveries of electrical equipment. Certain it is that we will be unable to anticipate what we can do until the electrical manufacturing plants get back to work and again work out a schedule.

Were it not for the strike, the prospect of accomplishing installations of additional Pres-to-logs machines would look very bright. We have at present five undelivered machines on order. One of these is to be shipped to South Africa. Two are to be installed in the plant of Great Lakes Lumber & Shipping, Ltd., Ft. Williams, Ontario, who already are operating two machines. The other two go to the Caldwell Lumber Company, Caldwell, Idaho . . . a new plant.

In the prospect stage, we have several foreign concerns, any one or all of which may develop into orders at any time. The Goose Lake Box Company, at Alturas, California, expects to be ready for two Pres-to-logs machines this year. This is a new plant operated by the same people who have our machines at Reno, Nevada. We hope to be able to install two machines and a stoker machine in Spokane, before the year is out. The J. Neils Lumber Co., at Klickitat, Washington, are trying to work things out so that they can put Pres-to-logs machines to work in that plant. And there are others.

Wood Briquettes, Inc., plant at Sacramento started off with a bang about the middle of February, under the operating guidance of Cy Chase, formerly foreman of the Pres-to-logs plant at Coeur d'Alene, and under the supervision of Jos Sampietro, who has sold Pres-to-logs for Wood Briquettes, Inc. in California ever since we have been in that market. The production of this plant should be readily absorbed and we are hopeful that it will not be long before more plants of our own can be built in California.

### Potlatch Foremen . . .

The Potlatch Foreman's Council has elected as officers for 1946 . . . H. V. Beckemeier, chairman; J. E. Warner, vice-chairman; Clifford F. Lathen, secretary. The various committee chairmen are—Safety, J. A. Stone; Membership, P. H. Tobin; Fire, Alfred Johnson; Entertainment, Floyd Morgan; Suggestion, C. F. Lathen; and Coca-Cola, George Hudson.

Watch your step—on the stair, on the pavement, ON THE GAS!



## Woods News

(Continued from page six)

We have a very good and complete first cabinet here and medicines within it for all ailments, but nothing for the bite of the love bug. The little rascal has been working overtime around here. Clarence Wilson and Gloria Swanson are now Mr. and Mrs. Wilson. Jack Newson and Edna Schilling are Mr. and Mrs. Nelson.

### Camp 58—McComas Meadows

Our roads seem to be getting softer each succeeding day. We're hoping for a quick arrival of summer.

Now have 13 servicemen working here and every bunkhouse is full. Visitors will have to sleep in the dry room, or not at all.

### Headquarters

The song "Let It Snow, Let It Snow" has given a plenty literal meaning here during part of February. In fact, it probably was inspired by some such area as this. Under Birklund is credited with having run out two bulldozers trying to keep the roads and parking lot cleared. Arthur is said to have worn out a couple of new shovels on the walks and Russell inflicted considerable damage to a pair of pants when he accidentally slid off a porch roof of the drug store while melting snow therefrom.

Instead of the long trek in to see how the abandoned camp buildings were melting up under heavy loads of snow an airplane trip was made this year that required only a few minutes to fly over X, H, 14, W, and J. The flying was done by Merle Bowler, Orofino.

Forest personnel who have stayed at the Canyon Ranger Station report that game has wintered very well considering snow depth. At the Canyon there was forty-two inches of snow. They have bagged one bear, making four from this district.

### Camp 43—Deep Creek

There has been around five feet of snow at this camp and the going has been no picnic. The cut through which our railroad runs itself into camp is still on the move and occasionally a stretch of rail will have a roadbed drop from underneath. But, that's in the day's work. We have about two million on the ground, got out a million six hundred thousand in February, and have one two hundred fifty thousand cat skid logs in deck for loading out in early March.

### Camp 42—Bovill

We had 161 names on our payroll during the month, 120 at the end of the month. The rather high number can be partially attributed to Camp 45 truck drivers who are out here. Spring seems to be definitely in the air and it won't be long until the pussy willows, the robins, and the porcupines will be much in evidence. Anticipated also is a bottomless road up the East Fork of Blatch Creek. We may have to swim our trucks into the landing and very shortly we will be able to use water wings to good advantage on both trucks and cars. We have about a hundred thousand feet of jammer skid logs to haul and around a million three-quarters on the ground. Got in one million three hundred thousand in February.

## Plant News

### Clearwater

During the last week in February the old Yale (electric) lift truck in the Pres-to-logs storage department finally konked out, leaving only the Hyster gas lift to handle some 140 tons of Pres-to-logs, plus stoker fuel, each twenty-four hour period, seven days per week. On March 2nd the Hyster (affectionately termed the yellow go-devil) broke down for some three hours. Pres-to-logs storage foreman Les Woodland developed a fine case of nervous prostration and during the catastrophe of March 2nd (while the dressed shed's small lift truck tugged and groaned in an attempt to handle two-ton loads of Pres-to-logs) almost gnawed his fingernails off.

A gradual reduction of the number of women employees at Clearwater was rather sharply called to attention during February when the lady's rest room in the smokehall changed names and became the plant foreman's room. Incidentally, this decision and change was not the most popular one ever made at the plant as far as the ladies are concerned.

Our safety department has some fifty pairs of ladies' safety shoes on hand. Would like to sell same. These are excellent shoes for hiking and outdoors and very smart in appearance. Too, they have a protective toe cap which will protect your wife's feet should the family cow casually step in that direction (we are assuming you have a cow which, of course, means that your wife does the milking).

Federal and state income tax collectors have again shown Clearwater plant employees the courtesy of helping them prepare income tax reports. More than half of the boys at the plant have refunds coming from the federal government.

### Rutledge

The sawmill closed for repairs on February 28th . . . will probably be down all of March. For once we can't complain about the weather and the lake, of which we have written so many lines of copy, is at a satisfactory level.

Basketball has been a very hot subject around here for some little time. Coeur d'Alene High School has handily copped the Class A title for this district and we are confident will with equal ease win the Moscow play-off for North Idaho. It will not much pain us that in the process they will eliminate Lewiston, Idaho team. One of the big guns of the Coeur d'Alene team is Darwin Cogswell, Rutledge plant employee last summer. In addition to his fine work in athletics Cogswell is president of the Associated Student Body of Coeur d'Alene High School and has been chosen as the most outstanding member of the senior class. His name has been entered by the high school faculty for consideration in the Elks' Association contest to determine the most valuable high school senior in the state.

Elmer Belknap's troubles are no less now than a few months past. Shortages in doors, hardware, flooring, lath, plumbing and many other building items have caused several temporary work stoppages in construction around Coeur d'Alene. Most of the con-

struction, despite the housing shortage, is for commercial purposes . . . a new Bureau of Highways building, a new Pepsi-Cola plant, apartment buildings, a church, etc.

Basketball has not been confined to the high school. The Coeur d'Alene Academy has played a few games under the tutorship of Bob Billings, Rutledge time clerk. The Coeur d'Alene Press pays Bob this compliment—"COACH OF SEASON: Is Bob Billings, who not only donated his services as basketball coach for the Academy team, but through his efforts the boys received new uniforms and practiced in the Junior High School gym. It was the first season in several years that the Academy boys had a basketball team, and had the opportunity to practice and play on a larger floor."

## Drive Extension Roll

An extension roll, for use on six, eight, ten and twelve foot lumber to carry boards across the off bearing table so pullers may easily reach the short boards has been designed at Clearwater by Ray O'Connor, planer foreman.



Ray O'Connor and extension roll.

Before the extension roll was installed the off bearing of six and eight foot lumber was especially difficult as off bearers could not reach the short lumber except from the opposite side of sorting belt. This was a dangerous practice since the men were then in the path of lumber coming directly out of the planer. Fortunately no serious accident ever occurred, but the possibility was always present.

Another dividend paid by the extension roll is that grade marks, all on the far end of the lumber as it reaches the off bearing table, can be easier read on the twelve foot and shorter boards. The roll is friction-driven and can be easily disconnected when not needed.

**RIGHT . . . An angry man is again angry with himself when he returns to reason.**

There were 514 accidental deaths in Idaho during 1945. This is entirely out of line with the number in other states. It is a fearful and tragic price to pay for carelessness and thoughtlessness. Eighty-one of the deaths were occupational, thirty-three were farm, one hundred forty-one occurred in the home, one hundred eighty-one from motor vehicles, and the balance of one hundred eleven happened from a variety of causes.

## Governor to Serve

(Continued from page one)

by the Boise Statesman in an editorial of February 23rd . . .

"The state Junior Chamber of Commerce has launched a program toward 'keeping Idaho green.' We support their cause, one hundred percent. Their practical approach to their goal is a campaign to educate every one of us to exercise common sense and caution in and around our growing timber, lest we light a small flame which may quickly blaze into a raging and destructive forest fire.

"The majority of our costly range and forest fires are set by well intentioned but careless Idahoans, even as you and we. There is no safeguard the forestry officials can guarantee our green woods and fields against us. Those of us who drive cars across the state, who hunt, who fish, who work in the fields, who drive stock—every one of us is a potential source of a forest or range fire. A carelessly thrown cigarette, or match, or an undoused camp fire by any one of us can, and too often does, blight a good part of Idaho's verdant timber.

"By all means within each of our powers, let us all cooperate in being considerate and careful and, thus, 'KEEP IDAHO GREEN'."

## International Harvester Show Visits Bovill and Headquarters

During February a two-hour vaudeville and movie program, sponsored by the International Harvester Company and the International Mountain Equipment Company visited Bovill and Headquarters.

Vaudeville acts included Jim Hartley, harmonica wizard; Carl Shuff, magician; Jean Campbell, accordionist. Movies of several types were shown, ranging from comedy, to travelogue, to the educational. The master of ceremonies, D. I. Persons, assistant manager for International at Spokane, was also credited with an exceptionally fine job. The show was well received, earning a vote of thanks from everyone in attendance.

*The earth's greatest mines are liquid. They are the oceans. No nation will need worry about its gold supply or its mineral resources, once scientists learn how to mine the oceans.*

Samson is said to have killed a thousand men with the jawbone of an ass. The figure is positively puny and insignificant when compared to the number of hours and the number of friendships killed with the same weapon.



## Man of the Month

If a record of "speeder time" had been kept in the Clearwater, as flying time records are kept for aviators, Frank Baney would have more miles to his credit than any other of P.F.I.'s speeder drivers.

Frank has been continuously on speeder service since 1940 and is thought of almost as a permanent part of speeder 714 which he has used since its purchase in 1940.

New dispatchers are awed by his gruff manner on the 'phone but soon discover it to be a mask with no bite underneath. Baney's greatest pleasure is to park his feet on an office desk and tell all present how the business should be operated. Occasionally he has opportunity to run the section crew, but never really seems to enjoy it.

Away from work Frank drives a car that looks a bit like a fugitive from a junk pile, what . . . with fenders gone, etc. His home is in Pierce and he has a large family. Several of his daughters are married to men who work for P.F.I. and his son, Donald, recently returned from several years' service in World War II. He's a very human individual with a warming sparkle to his eyes that hides behind the cloak of a gruff voice. We think him a real asset to P.F.I.

## Filtering Plant Clearwater

By KEN ROSS\*

Drinking water at Clearwater has been something of a problem and not a particularly easy one to solve. The temperature of the water as it comes from the well (dug for the especial purpose of supplying drinking water) is 52° and quite satisfactory. When chlorinated to insure purity, however, iron (of which there is more than desirable quantity) is precipitated from solution and gives the water a disagreeable taste, a less than pleasant odor, and a definitely red color. The trouble was so objectionable that council was asked of a firm long experienced in water purification . . . Infilco, Inc.

The guarantee which accompanies the Infilco treating plant recommended, and purchased by P.F.I., reads—"the water delivered will be clean, clear and uniformly treated. The iron content will be reduced to an amount not exceeding 0.3 parts per million (an amount which will not stain porcelains, linens, etc.). The water delivered by the Hydrodarco purifiers will be free from chlorine, chlorophenols, objectionable tastes, odors and organic color."

Pictured is the well and pump house, which has been enlarged to hold the puri-

twelve feet in diameter and sixteen feet in height with a dirt-tight cover. The building also houses the aerator, a complicated alum-fiers and the sedimentation tank that is



Pump house and water tower.

inum casting some six feet in height. The two purifiers are large cylindrical tanks, six feet in diameter and six feet high. They are filled with gravel and sand with a covering layer of activated carbon which has the property of absorbing tastes and odors. The sedimentation tanks serve to allow the iron to precipitate and settle. The installation is presently being tested and will be put into operation as soon as necessary adjustments can be made.

\*Foreman Ross has too many titles for a by-line. He is power plant foreman, pipe shop foreman and plant fire chief.