

Reaching for Tomorrow

"Wood is capable of being made the most universally useful of all the materials of industry."



Above, new quarters for the Engineering Department

INTO enlarged quarters last month moved PFI's engineering staff and there was good significance and meaning to the event. Unmistakeably it was guarantee of continued effort to achieve better utilization of the raw material called wood. It was tacit assurance also in manufacturing



Above, Jim Atwood and Chief Engineer Bob Bowling pondering the details of the Presto-Logs plant layout for Vancouver, B. C.

The first material over which man obtained any degree of mastery, the material that gave him his first measure of control over natural forces, was wood. Ironically, it remains to this day the least comprehended of the great natural resources . . . its greatest value, that of self renewal, not fully appreciated. This much, however, is known . . . the tree from which comes wood is a manufacturing plant of no mean ability where leaves, branches and trunk combine gases, chemicals and solar energy into products so numerous that their number may only be guessed.

Wood is the most versatile of all living substances . . . it is capable of being made the most universally useful of all the materials of industry. It yields itself to new and unsuspected uses at the command of inquiring minds possessed of the will to puzzle out hidden secrets. Time, patience, intelligent application of research and engineering skill can bring things worthy of Aladdin himself. Certain it is that an infinitely more efficient use can be made of our forests than has been made in the past.

Possibilities

The breadth and suitability of wood as a structural material can be improved if it is made resistant to fire, decay and insects. It will become a much better structural material if its properties can be so modified as to stabilize it against the influence of atmospheric changes.

The glue pot has been well stirred to make possible many new products by a marriage of good and glue . . . the field of wood lamination invites entry . . . wood as a source of chemicals excites the imagination . . . wood for fiber offers intriguing promise . . . there are untapped fields for wood as a plastic flow material made temporarily soft to permit twisting, bending and molding into desired shapes but capable of hard-

ening again into characteristic tough rigidity . . . wood can be torn apart and its fibers used to manufacture a host of things unlike wood in any respect, or the fibers can be dissolved and used to make other things which bear no resemblance to either wood or fiber.

Waste utilization must claim more and more separate jobs of research and development until waste material becomes no longer waste but a primary raw material that the sawmill operator will no more throw away than the lumber he now sells. That this complete utilization of waste must come largely through individual and unrelated efforts is easy to understand when it is remembered that usually the market for products from waste is limited. If many producers concentrated their utilization efforts on a single item, the market would soon be glutted . . . examples are wood buttons, furniture cores, dishes, wood ornaments, floor tile, parts for toys, etc.

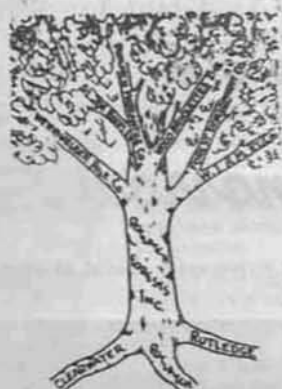
There must be well directed effort to improve manufacturing tools. Worthwhile strides have been made in the improving of logging methods, but much more remains to be done. In the mills band saws have undergone few changes in the last several generations. Perhaps the disposition to question all things may cause some engineer to find another and better way of cutting up a log.

Perhaps some slightly "tetched" fellow, minus the sense to be bothered by ridicule, will discover a way to reduce moisture content of a tree to an acceptable low before it is felled, eliminating the need for dry kilns. Perhaps another will discover a revolutionary way to operate matchers and moulders. Others with no respect for so-called facts will unearth various improvements, develop ways to utilize waste . . . (it was an established fact that planer

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methods. Phrased a bit differently, it was an easily read insurance policy promising much for the future.

If it were possible to so hold a mirror as to reflect the path of human progress, the important milestones along the way would be revealed each in its attainment to have demanded mastery of materials and a keying thereto of controlled force. Each milestone too, would be seen as the product of study, research and development work. None came easily and none will, and those who cling to established practices, who ignore research and spend neither time or funds on development work, are briskly galloping along the road to a commercial graveyard. Consumer favor is an elusive thing . . . best wooed and held by product improvement and the offering of greater values in exchange for the dollars that spell payrolls and taxes and a future.



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Just a Thought

The world is composed of two groups of people—the positive thinkers and the negative. It is a matter of history that those who have contributed most to the forward surge of civilization have been persons who were the most ready to say "I can." Particularly has this been true within industry.

The negative thinkers, on the other hand, have always declined to throw themselves wholeheartedly into a job because of a wide variety of reasons, chief of which perhaps is fear of mistake and the ridicule it provokes. The negative thinker starts with the conviction amounting almost to hope that "It can't be done" and proceeds with understandable lack of enthusiasm and interest.

Whether you are on the job, in your home or in a public meeting you will find yourself in happier company if you will align yourself with positive, constructive thinkers. No matter what you attempt, try to do it just a little bit better than the next fellow.

Afraid of making a mistake? Well, don't let that worry you because the man or woman who does nothing makes the biggest mistake of all.

Billings to New York

PFI Boss C. L. Billings left Lewiston on February 17th, destination New York and attendance of the American Pulp and Paper Association meeting. He is also to attend a meeting of the National Committee of which he is a member. Plans call for his return to Lewiston in early March.

Unemployment Insurance

There is an unmistakable tendency to lose sight of the intent and purpose of unemployment insurance, particularly when personal friendship excites sympathy for the claimant even though he be among the unemployed by choice rather than necessity.

Unemployment insurance is exactly what the name connotes. It was intended only to provide payment of money to wage earners temporarily deprived of employment through no fault of their own.

The money to pay unemployment claims is accumulated by employer contributions to the state. Wage earners, as such, contribute nothing to the fund. This clearly places responsibility upon the employer for policing the accumulated funds to make certain that wise dispensation is made and only legitimate claims are paid. There are two justifiable reasons for such police work by the employer . . . one . . . if he allows unwarranted claims to be paid without protest it will cost him additional money . . . two . . . payment of unjustified claims would tend to exhaust the fund with the attendant risk that employees entitled to benefits and some day conceivably in need of them might find the fund non-existent.

Unemployment insurance premiums assessed against employers vary between the extremes of 1.1% of payroll and 2.7% of payroll, depending upon the employer's ability to achieve year-around employment for his employees. It would be the height of foolishness for PFI, as an example, to absorb the expense of winter logging costs in order to eliminate seasonal employment in the woods and then to, without protest, permit indiscriminate payment of unemployment insurance claims to any and everybody making application.

Fortunately, however, there are few attempts to get "rocking chair" money via the unemployment route. When these appear, it is, of course, the responsibility of the employer to protest their allowance, both to keep the price of unemployment insurance at a reasonable level and to insure benefits for deserving employees when needed.

Down South America Way

(Ed. Note PFI Engineer Fred Dicus writes home from Montevideo, Uruguay)

"Well, I got here fine, had a little rough air a couple of times and bounced around some. At one spot we had to circle a landing field for over an hour before finding a hole through the clouds to get down.

"Have had a good time since I got here but get a headache every night from trying to listen to these fellows all talk at once. About six men will gather around you, one will pat you on the back and begin talking rapidly. When he finally realizes you can't understand him he will throw up his hands in an exaggerated gesture of despair, and go for an interpreter. By the time the interpreter is able to tell you what he means three other fellows will have started talking.

"Have the Pres-to-logs machine running but the grinder is set wrong and we keep running out of fuel. The fuel is hauled in, dumped on the floor and then shoveled into large willow baskets and carried over and dumped into the grinder. Some system!

"Everyone has treated me royally and I can hardly get away from them long enough to write. They eat about five times a day and enough for three people at two of the meals. The last dinner in the evening starts about 8:30 or 9:00

o'clock and is quite an affair. It runs something like this; sliced ham and fruit salad or some other similar dish; then a fish course with a vegetable; then chicken with vegetable; then a steak; and finally some pastry. You drink wine or beer at first, then mineral water and finally they bring you a pot of coffee, and one of hot milk. I tried to drink the coffee straight but couldn't get the spoon through it so had to cut it a little with hot milk."

IDAHO STUDENTS TO VISIT

In reply to a letter from Mr. Eric Kirkland, Swimming Coach of the University of Idaho, Headquarters Logging Superintendent Howard Bradbury has extended an invitation to Kirkland and interested students to visit the logging operations centering at Headquarters.

It was suggested that the group plan to spend at least two days out of Headquarters to afford opportunity for inspection of both railroad and river logging.

To manage a forest properly the owner must understand what it is, how it lives and grows, what is good and what is bad for it. Only through such understanding can best results be obtained.

'COLD' FACTS**Kerchoo - Cough - Cough**

The common cold is one of the great unsolved mysteries of modern life. Each year it takes an economic toll of two billion dollars in the U. S. A. alone. It causes untold misery to millions of sufferers. Yet what causes a cold and what cures a cold are still as much enigmas as they were over two thousand years ago when medical science was young.

Colds cause fifty to sixty percent of all absences from work.

Colds cause five times as much loss of production man-hours as do strikes.

You catch cold from someone's coughing, sneezing or talking. Definitely colds travel by air.

A person's cold is infectious from five to seven days.

Resistance to cold infection is lowered by rapid temperature changes.

Two out of every three people have three colds a year. On the theory that misery loves company perhaps some consolation can be had from this fact.

NOTE OF APPRECIATION

From H. B. Jamison, President of the Western Pine Association, came this letter to General Manager Billings in February: "We shall accede to your wishes and designate some one else to serve on the National Lumber Manufacturers Association Executive Committee for the coming year, much as we hate to lose you. You have rendered the Association a real service with the National the past several years, and it will not be easy to replace you.

"I want to express my personal appreciation, and, I know that of all association members, to you for remaining on this committee the past year. I know you did so at a personal sacrifice and contrary to your wishes."

**FROM HARLAN H. HESPEN
DONADO SCHOOL OF AVIATION
PUERTO RICO**

"I am still in the aviation game working for Miss Clara E. Livingston. She owns about one-half of Puerto Rico it seems. We have a good school, about the only one on the Islands that amounts to anything and the only one that is approved by the Board of Education, the Veterans Administration and the CAA.

"This is the toughest job I have ever had. Teaching Latin-American students isn't the easiest thing to do. If I get away from here all in one piece I want never again to have anything to do with Latin-American people.

"Will return to the States in May and in July will go to work for the Kentucky State Aeronautics Commission. I worked for them last summer two days a week flying around the state in a new Beechcraft to see that the airports were kept up and operated in accordance with state regulations."

Ed. Note: Harlan is the son of Harvey Hesper, Potlatch Unit dry kilns employee since 1936.

BACK FROM MEMPHIS

Assistant General Manager Roy Huffman, Chief Engineer Bob Bowling, Veneer Plant Engineer H. H. Hubenthal, and Clearwater Unit Manager D. S. Troy, returned February 22nd from Memphis, Tennessee and a trial run of PFI peeler logs.

Some interesting information and valuable manufacturing data was obtained from the trial run according to Huffman and can be used to good advantage in layout and operational plans for the Clearwater Veneer Plant.

The group left Lewiston February 14th.

Safety Wager Paid

February 10th was payoff day for the principals of a three-way safety contest at Clearwater. The winner, personnel director Charlie Cummerford, was served his lunch by the losers, superintendents Shelt Andrew and John Aram.

The contest was the product of a challenge issued last October by Cummerford and which involved dividing among the three principals the mill's departments for accident responsibility during November, December and January. For the record, Cummerford was the winner, but the luncheon ceremony on February 11th was a rather convincing example of how to lose while winning.

Charlie was first escorted to a raised platform in the plant cafeteria with a great show of solicitude by white-aproned Aram and Andrew. Aram assumed the role of bootblack and began vigorously polishing the Cummerford boots. Andrew sprayed the adjoining area with a flitgun . . . finally nonchalantly sprayed winner Cummerford. A considerable quantity of both salt and sugar somehow became a part of the soup and the luncheon steak by another name was shoe leather. While the champ used teeth and fingers on the food there was loud caterwauling by Aram and Andrew who insisted on the right to wheeze their way through several stanzas of a ballad composed on the spot.

There was some reason for rejoicing however. The contest had scored a notable reduction in lost-time injuries, had worked so well as to bring a second challenge and a second contest.

CUMMERFORD ELECTED VICE-PRESIDENT PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

Charlie Cummerford, Personnel Director at Clearwater, according to word received from C. W. Sherman, past President of the Pacific Northwest Personnel Management Association, has been elected a vice-president of the Association.

In a letter to O. H. Leuschel, Assistant General Manager of PFI, Mr. Sherman states, "Mr. Cummerford will be in charge of eastern Washington, Idaho and Montana. Due to his splendid work during the past year and the many contributions he has made to the organization, Charlie was the logical choice for that area. I want to tell you that his election was unanimous."

The Association is a nonprofit organization founded by a group of personnel management people in 1939. An annual conference to discuss personnel matters is held each year, the meeting place rotating between Spokane, Portland and Seattle.

The week of April 26th through May 1st, inclusive, has been proposed by the University of Idaho School of Forestry as an appropriate time for Forestry Week. Governor Robins has been asked by D. S. Jeffers to officially proclaim this period of time as Forestry Week for the State of Idaho.





Left, Phil Schnabel concentrating at the drafting table. Right, H. H. Hubenthal looks up from veneer plant plans and grins at the camera. Center left below, Harold White up to his ears in details incident to new cut-up plant. Lower left, Mort Brigham extracting a print from a filing case. Bottom left, unidentified drafting table where study of curves was underway.



Reaching for Tomorrow

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shavings could not be briquetted without the use of a too expensive binder until Bob Bowling, ignoring facts, built the Pres-to-logs machine and did the job without any binder at all)

Workshop

The building recently enlarged for the engineering department was constructed for their use in 1944. At that time it was labelled an "engineering workshop" by PFI assistant general manager Roy Huffman who has charge of product development and kindred items. The name has proven well applied. Ideas to effect operational economies . . . remodelling details to increase production or two speed handling of materials . . . the introduction of new manufacturing processes with attendant details . . . have all been treated here, pondered, reduced to paper form and expression in the hieroglyphics of the draftsman. Result has been many new products strange to PFI manufacture in other years; much new machinery at all three mills; many changes to reduce manufacturing costs and to improve quality of product.

On the day of the camera's visit

Engineer Fred Dicus was in South America unraveling difficulties incident to operation of a Pres-to-logs plant in Montevideo.

Engineer Hubenthal, who began work more than a year ago on research to determine the wisdom of a venture in veneer manufacture at Clearwater, and engineer Brigham were wrestling with problems of veneer plant construction. The area where the plant is to be placed has been surveyed, plat maps and profiles have been made, service lines, bridges, etc., across tailrace have been located.

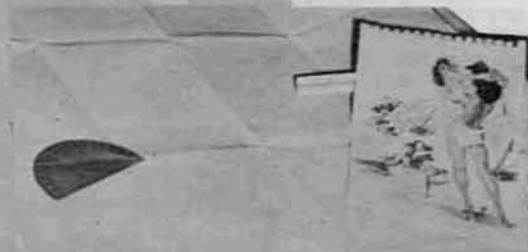
Engineer White was up to his ears in plans, costs, and estimate sheets of one sort or another pertaining to the cut-up plant scheduled for the re-plant building at Clearwater. Plans call for a completely new setup consisting of three Irvington semi-automatic cutoff saws,

one Hermance gang rip saw, one Diehl straight line rip saw, one or two box factory type table rip saws, one Vonnegut high speed moulder, one Woods high speed moulder, and one 48-inch sander. All are to have hydraulic lifts, gravity rolls, power driven feed chains and belt conveyers for fast and easy operation of machines. Lumber is to be handled by lift truck and carried from planing mill to rolls or chains leading to machines and from machines to loading dock. A blow pipe system, in units to accommodate various groupings of machines, will be used. A Diehl-Dosker electronic wide board glueing machine will also be installed with auxiliary equipment consisting of a lumber conditioning dry kiln, two Diehl straight line rip saws, live rolls, gravity rolls and hydraulic elevators for handling lumber, a hog for grinding edgings, panel sizing saw and panel cut off saw.

Engineer Schnabel was no less busy with plans for revision of the Clearwater stacker and unstacker buildings. The stacker revision to provide more sorts for lumber, the unstacker revision to prevent breakage of lumber and loss of knots.

On engineer Atwood's drafting table were plans for the layout of a Pres-to-logs plant in Vancouver, B. C., Canada. Awaiting attention was design of another Pres-to-logs plant . . . for the Deer Park Pine Industry, Inc., Deer Park, Washington . . . a four machine arrangement involving use of a flue gas dryer to reduce moisture content of hogged fuel to be converted into Pres-to-logs.

A further look around revealed nothing of a very startling nature to be underway. Problems of the moment were mechanical and involved the addition of new machinery and construction details of the veneer plant. Staff members declined to mention by name any of the projects up for early attention or to identify the nature of work close ahead or far away. In fact, they are a rather non-committal bunch, but the long time harvest of their efforts and those of other similar research and engineering departments will be many new and useful things to weave into the life of John Public. PFI will produce its share of such items . . . will pace the field in the development of many.



Plant News

Rutledge

The wide board glue machine began functioning in February. In charge of the Department as foreman is Ruben C. Carlson. Operating the various machines in the Department will be Rudolph E. Olsen, Roy H. Lindberg, David D. Bailey and Christ Holm. Maintenance tasks are to be performed by Harold Lindberg. The paint crew from Lewiston gave the inside of the Department a nice coat of white paint with grey trim . . . a very nice looking job it is.

* * *

The groundhog must have seen his shadow on the second of February. At any rate, shortly thereafter we got six inches of snow and some cold weather.

* * *

Joe Andres, Chief Engineer, says the ice on the logs will not burn and we're not arguing with Joe.

* * *

Joseph A. Schaffner and Charles L. Walton became proud fathers during the month—Joe for the second time and Charles for the first.

* * *

Lady Luck frowned our way in January and we had two lost time accidents of one day each. The first one happened to Roy Lindberg who was loading cars when a piece of lumber caught on the roof of the car and bounced back against his arm causing strained shoulder ligaments. The second befell Elmer Bjornstad who was cleaning and repairing the knife grinder in the filing room. The grinding head came off and struck Elmer a glancing blow. Had it been a direct hit the accident would have been serious indeed, so perhaps we had some good luck along with the bad.

* * *

Potlatch Unit

Shepherd and Terlson are on a two-day per week schedule at Potlatch still doing outstanding work with the topic "Job Instruction" heading present sessions.

* * *

J. J. O'Connell, G. C. Gregg, G. D. Stillwell and Ted DeLong made a trip to John Day, Oregon, leaving January 27th and returning the 29th. While there they took particular note of edging cut-up stock.

* * *

Miss Mabel A. Kelley (Tree correspondent in addition to many other duties) was called to Kalispell, Montana, because of the illness of her mother the middle of January. Upon her return to Potlatch she was taken ill and was confined to her home until the middle of February.

Champ Skater

A keen sportsman who has participated in many sports and proved himself a great athlete in all of them is Adolph Olson, veteran Rutledge employee . . . right.

Adolph began work at Rutledge in May, 1916. Prior to that time had captured first place in a roller skating endurance contest in Salt Lake City in the year 1912. It was a ten-hour contest during which time the skater was not allowed to halt, or be disqualified. At the end of the contest Adolph was six and one-half miles ahead of the field.

Olson has won roller skating racing championships as well. A trim wirey build makes one wonder if he couldn't still put up a good battle in defense of the crowns. One speed contest he recalls quite well although it occurred in 1913 on the Coast . . . Adolph lost that one by a distance of three feet, the winner, a Washington man, setting a Pacific Coast two-mile record in the event. In 1927 Adolph successfully defended his championship and was not called upon to repeat the job until last year when it was suggested another contest be staged — he is toying with the idea, but admits rather reluctantly "Endurance skating is a young man's game."

As can be easily imagined, Adolph's chief interest in life is sports. He has coached baseball teams for Rutledge and has won a number of horseshoe pitching contests in the Inland Empire and upon several occasions has been champ tosser for the area. He is much interested in the possibility of getting a good sports program underway at Rutledge and has helped with the horseshoe pitching tournament at the plant. He is a moulding grader and has been for the past several years.



Joe Stone, First Aid man at Potlatch plant, has the outstanding record of having given first aid to a total of 10,118 cases in the past ten years without a single case of infection resulting in lost time. More power to you, Joe!

* * *

Clearwater News

Under direction of Phil Peterson (on loan to Clearwater from Headquarters where he is foreman of construction work) the railroad grade leading to the veneer plant has been completed. The grade cuts across the west end of the millyard, crosses the tailrace to the west of all plant buildings and skirts the north side of the north rough storage shed, continuing eastward to veneer mill site.

* * *

The new cutup plant, located where the old sorting chain formerly functioned in the replant, is nearing completion. The entire cutup department, at present working in both the old Pres-to-logs plant and the old 4-square room, will be moved to this location. The loading dock will be extended to afford loading space for products of the new plant.

* * *

February will find Clearwater shipping more lumber than during any other month in its history, with one exception October of 1942. This is a particularly outstanding record as compared to October 1942 when it is remembered that

many carloads of green and rough lumber were loaded out in that month of 27 million feet. During the first 16 working days of February 15½ million have been shipped and it is expected that a total of around 23 million will be reached by the end of the month. The high figure for a single day in October 1942 was 43 cars. February 1948 has a best of 34 cars. Only the finest kind of cooperation between all departments has

LAYING A KEEL

Below appears the keel of what later will become a sturdy tugboat to ply the waters of Lake Coeur d'Alene. Construction is under the watchful eye of veteran boat builder Fred Brautigan, Coeur d'Alene, who has built other boats for PFL. Scene of the boat building job is the ground floor of the Rutledge mill.





made the record month possible according to shipping superintendent John Aram.

Our three months safety contest ended with the January day shift crew of the box factory taking honors with an elapsed accident-free manhours total of 41,012. The contest has been extended by another three months with each department retaining its elapsed hours of accident-free time as of February 1 as a base on which to start—except for the winning crew which must begin anew as of February 2. Winning Department of contest No. 2, as with the first contest, will receive a free dinner at company expense. Members of the safety committee of the winning box factory crew were Monty Morris, Carl Tweitmeyer, Russell DeChemin, Ernie Hemphill and Riley Worley.

Coal and petroleum once were trees or at least heavy vegetation. In the laboratory the chief components of all trees, cellulose and lignin, can be turned into coal and petroleum from which many of the hydrocarbon derivatives are extractable.

Has 37-Year Work Record at P.F.I.

Clearwater nomination for title "Man Who Has Worked Longest For PFI" is lumber grader Joe Favaro, left.

Joe began work with the Potlatch Lumber Company at Elk River in 1911 and observed the 37th anniversary of his employment in February of this year.

Attracted by a relative's description of the northwest Favaro left his native Italy in the spring of 1910, arrived in Spokane in May of the same year, stayed there until January of 1911. A scant knowledge of the English language was embarrassing at first and Joe recalls it was no help on the initial trip into Elk River. Arriving at Palouse enroute to Elk River, Joe entered a restaurant but no amount of his brand of English, or resort to the Italian tongue, could seem to get across to the waitress that he desired food. Finally in exasperation he muttered a disgusted protest in German. To his surprise the waitress was able to answer and the problem of food was solved.

Joe first worked on construction at Elk River. Working on the green chain, he handled the first stick of lumber that came from the Elk River sawmill. In 1933, working in the remanufacturing plant, he handled the last stick of lumber produced and shipped by the same plant.

Joe has made one return visit to Italy, in the year 1913. He is a member of the Potlatch White Piners and has a fine family of which he is justly proud. Two sons, both veterans of the last war, are attending school. Bernard is taking postgraduate work in international law at Stanford and Dick is majoring in business at Notre Dame. Both are honor students.

A man may fall several times but he isn't a failure until he begins to blame somebody else.



Dredging at Rutledge

An unusually low water level in Lake Coeur d'Alene during February called for some dredging at the mouth of the log slip.

At left millwrights Elbert Bailey and Oscar Olson move a deadhead from the path of the dredge bucket (so rigged as to pull muck and trash underneath boom walk and shoreward from in front of log slip). A tug, anchored to the boom walk, creates a stiff current to help with the removal job.

Bailey who began employment at Rutledge in March 1942, went from trimmerman to second millwright in May 1945 and from there to first millwright in July 1947, when Henry Janusch was promoted to sawmill foreman following Henry Peterson's retirement. Earlier Bailey had worked for Ohio and Winton Lumber companies.

Olson began work at Rutledge in August 1916, and has an uninterrupted work record since that date except for two years spent in the army during World War I, 18 months of which was overseas duty. His hobbies are fishing and hunting and he's exceptionally good at both. He was an edgerman for a good many years, transferred to millwright in 1947 and became a second millwright late that year. He is a member of the Potlatch White Piners, qualifying with well over 25 years of unbroken employment.

Someone Stole Our BAROMETER

The way we hear'd it kiddies it happened this a'way.

Some light-fingered gent with a yen for barometers, helped himself to same at Potlatch. Now if you don't care for barometers this probably would not seem too important a thing to you, but to the one-man weather bureau at Potlatch it was damage of a right serious nature. In righteous anger tongue was given in language uncomplimentary.

The barometer has since reappeared at Potlatch . . . as mysteriously as it departed . . . but there is some doubt about "all is forgiven." We have it from a fellow who knows a friend of the man who said it that "This is like the case of the horse at Orofino which broke the window to eat the flowers on a table except that we think it was the other end of the horse which got the barometer."

A western sheriff recently confiscated a bunch of slot machines on the basis of the law banning the use of steel traps for catching dumb animals.

It is possible in a super-pressure bomb to concentrate into a few seconds the heat and pressure which Nature has applied for ages to convert vast forests into coal and petroleum.

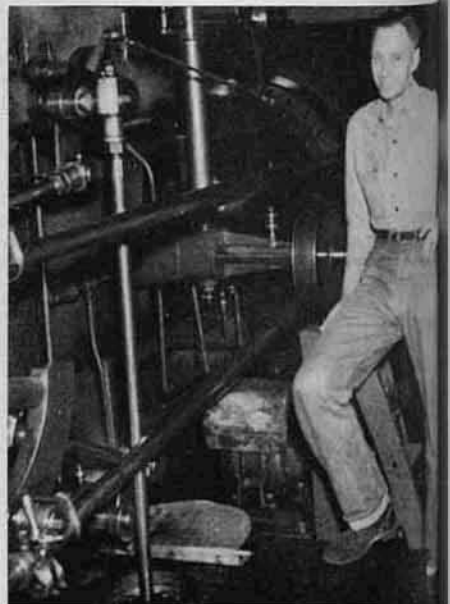
Corliss Engineer

Perhaps more men at Potlatch are dependent upon the efficiency of Art Fleiger, engineer of the big Corliss machine, than to any other individual on the Patlatch plant.

Art was first employed by Potlatch Forests in 1923 as a camp clerk but left the tall timber in 1924 to work at Elk River as a clerk in the warehouse. Leaving Elk River in 1926 he headed west to Potlatch and a firing job in the power plant. In 1942 he was advanced to the position of Corliss engineer.

There is a twinkle in his eyes that spells good humor and a cheerful disposition, all of which adds up to a decidedly plus personality.

Motorcycling is his hobby and when he feels in the mood for a thrill, or must needs make haste, you can see him climb aboard his iron steed and amidst a loud popping and a cloud of blue smoke there will be a movement in one direction or another in one hell of a hurry.



Woods News

Camp 36—Potlatch

January was one of our best months to date and February has given us equally good weather. We are still in the power saw business, using one on the landing and two in the woods felling trees. Production during January averaged 100 M per day.

With better skidding conditions and completion of most roads our crew has shrunk in point of number. Present plans anticipate an end of skidding by March first if the roads last that long.

* * *

Camp 42—Bovill

Fine logging weather for the past few weeks with production booming. Even Les Mallory and Dooley Cramp are wearing big smiles (plus plenty of other clothing). Only worry now is what to do with the logs. Anybody got an extra skyhook?

* * *

Camp 45—Badger Meadow

Nine skidding cats are working within sight of camp. With the help of 14 saw gangs and a road crew, 109 men in all, we are keeping five trucks busy and decking some logs at the landing.

There have been a few mishaps this month, the most serious being two broken legs and two overturned cats. For the most part, however, things have been running smoothly and camp production for January totaled 2,636,000 feet.

* * *

Headquarters

Near zero weather has aided all of our logging operations during the past two months.

The groundhog saw his shadow but we're hoping he is nearsighted.

Bob Olin is laying plans for the radio communications system to link Headquarters with adjacent area via Bald Mountain. His plans call for mobile units on the new diesel trains (promised delivery—two in March, one in April) as well as fixed stations.

Jim Delaney is busy installing new metallic systems for telephone use which, it is said, will insure better service.

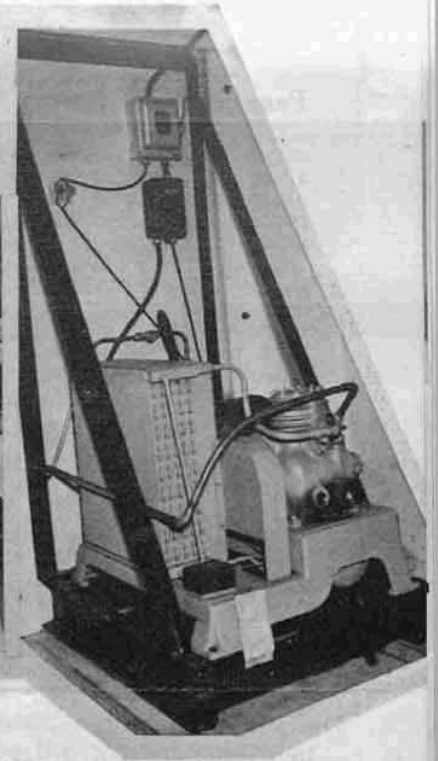
The cold weather has given us some good skating at the swimming pool and has made it possible to truck all the right-of-way logs from Snake Creek to the Camp 57 landing. Three short-log trucks were used on this job.

The shops are very busy overhauling machines for summer work. Only disadvantage is lack of room as everything is pretty crowded at this time of year.

* * *

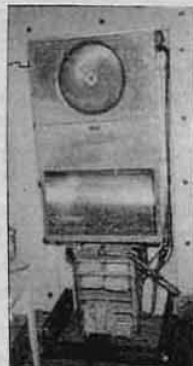
Camp 54—Washington Creek

Skidding was finished here some little time past and we are now sawing and skidding at Camp 56.



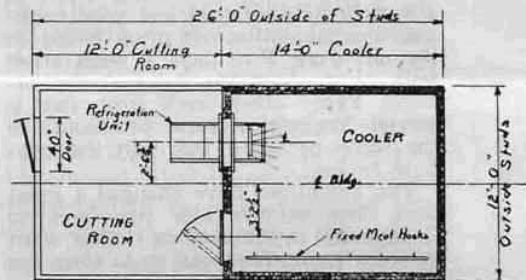
Refrigeration

The matter of adequate refrigeration for Pfi camps seems to be well solved by this portable refrigeration unit which can be bolted into place . . . half inside, half outside a big walk-in cooler size 12 x 14 feet.



An ordinary, standard size, portable camp building 12 x 26 feet is divided into two rooms . . . one a 12 x 12 meat cutting room, the other a walk-in cooler 12 x 14 feet to afford space for the unit. The cooler box is insulated, bottom, top and side walls, with K25 Balsam Wool in a thickness of five to six inches. Vapor barriers in the walls eliminate condensation. The refrigerating unit is bolted into place within the wall which divides cooler and meat cutting rooms. The fan in the cooling unit operates constantly but the compressor runs only when inside temperatures rise beyond a certain point. This permits fullest possible benefit of outside temperatures during winter and at the same time eliminates chance of foodstuffs freezing within the cooler unit.

Above center is a corner of the cooler box at Camp 45. Right above is outside half of refrigeration unit. At left is part of refrigeration unit which sets inside the cooler box and at right is draftsman's birdseye view of layout.



White cedar in the swamps of eastern Virginia has lain buried an estimated 3000 years yet is being dug up today and cut into boards which may last another thousand.

Camp 55—Alder Creek

Operations at 55 have speeded up a bit and although we have a long haul (adverse grade) from Alder Creek, cat roads have been good, partially offsetting at least the disadvantage of distance.

Our old friend the skyhook which has been dangling from its overhead cables like a piece of forgotten laundry, is once again in trial operation and perhaps will prove capable of carrying logs uphill to the landing. Noticeable is a mild feeling of optimism.

Camp 59—Meadow Creek

Our enemy, the weatherman, has been a little less mean of late for which we are properly thankful. Just plain cold weather is much nicer than a balmy breeze and much mud or heavy snow-fall.

We've heard many different and numerous kinds of gripes from many occupations but think the following represents a new one. We'll just call it a "little gripe" because it was told to us that way. A sawyer's life at best isn't exactly an

easy one so how would you feel if, with a tree almost ready to topple, you looked up and saw your pet deer roaming unconcernedly around in the exact spot where the tree was to descend. Chances are you'd cease sawing and with some strong yelling and a lot of noise urge the deer out of the way. At any rate that's what happened with our Bambi and woe be it to the fellow who drops a tree across our pet or next hunting season uses a rifle for the same end result.

Camp 57—Breakfast Creek

Our roads, though icy, are solid and in good condition which makes trucking much easier and a little faster than usual for this time of year. Little road maintenance has been required.

Seven saw gangs are averaging 61,000 feet per day even though the snow has reached a depth of five feet on the level and the sawyers must qualify as well diggers in order to keep the stumps short.

Camp 58—McComas Meadow

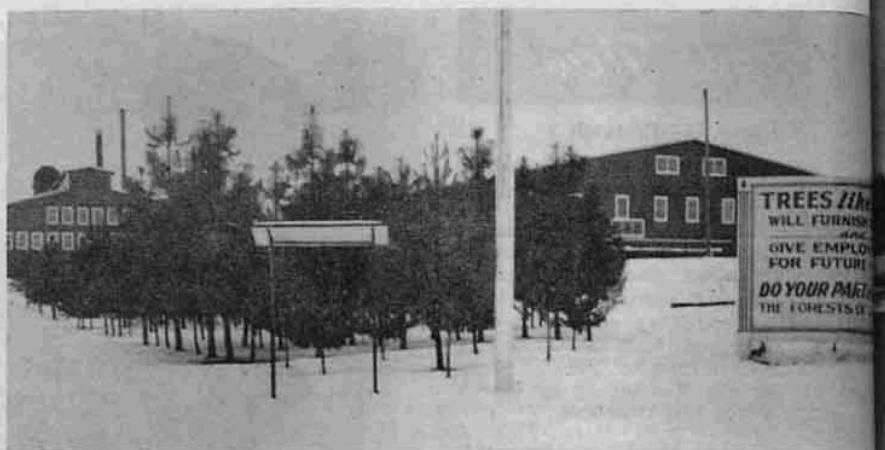
If any of we fellows who knocked around the woods 25 years ago had sat around the bunkhouse at that time and said conditions in a logging camp would be equal to those at Camp 58, the fellows listening would have given us a good sharp glance to see if we were telling a tall one or had gone harmlessly nuts.

A good gravel road connects 58 with the highway. Traveling is so good that the majority of the crew stay at home and drive back and forth to work. The camp itself is attractive and nicely laid out. Pres-to-logs are used for fuel in all the buildings. The camp is adequately lighted with electric lights and the big diesel plant that furnishes light also furnishes power for a large walk-in refrigerator, a big mixing machine in the cookhouse, as well as the juice to run air compressors, welders, grindstones, drills and other power tools.

The fellows who board in the camp have the best. Cook Harvey Spears sets an extraordinarily fine table. There is a variety of good food and good cooking, a combination not often found in the old days. Five days a week fresh milk comes from the dairy at Cottonwood. Every other week fresh fish is served. Vegetables arrive practically in the same condition they left the produce broker.

Yes, conditions have changed a great deal. The fellows can run over to Grangeville in the evening if they want to see a show. They can go to town for the weekend or they can stay in camp and at 7:00 o'clock on Sunday morning eat Harvey's breakfast of grapefruit, fresh fried potatoes, French fried toast sprinkled with powdered sugar, bacon and eggs, coffee and if that isn't enough top off with doughnuts and cookies. Then if they like they can run up the Middle Fork and go White fishing or in the summer they have a choice of the surrounding streams for trout. In the fall the South Fork country is alive with deer.

Life in the camps and the variety of things the fellows can do has changed a great deal in the last twenty-five years.



4-H To Plant Trees

In cooperation with the Extension Service of the University of Idaho PFI will set aside plots of ground at its three mills for planting of seedling trees each year by 4-H Forestry Club members. Plantings will probably run to about a thousand trees per lot each year. In addition to the three mills, an area will be set aside and marked on Craig Mountain for use of 4-H groups in the Lewiston area to furnish comparison of growth as between the natural habitat of trees common to this area and the lower elevation of the Clearwater plant.

Planting day will, in each instance, be named by the County Extension Agent who will arrange for seedling trees and transportation of 4-H club members. Ponderosa Pine and Fir will be planted, the Firs to be removed when they reach Christmas tree size. Lunch for the 4-H club members on tree planting day will be furnished by PFI and the youngsters will then be conducted on a tour of the mill near their tree plantation.

Idea for the program had its origin in a small tree plantation set out by Rutledge Unit Manager C. O. Graue several years back . . . pictured above as of February this year. Hoped for result of the program is the awakening of a lively interest among farm youngsters (and those likely to gain their future livelihood from proper land management) in the good sense to growing trees as a crop.

Trial Seeding To Be Made

Virgil Moss, Blister Rust Control Research Department, plans to plant some "cracked" seed this spring on PFI land along Hildabrand Creek. Preliminary tests indicate much less seed is needed per acre if seed is cracked and partly germinated before seeding. Normally the cost of direct seeding (using uncracked seed) is very high and equals the cost of planting.

Seed cracking, as the name implies, consists of breaking the hard outer coat of the seed which can then be stored under conditions which cause the radicle to emerge. Seeds may be planted immediately thereafter or can be stored under conditions which delay further germination.

It seems probable by using cracked seeds that direct seeding costs can be reduced. Seeds which have started germination are not eaten by rodents. Another value lies in the fact that fewer seeds, because of high germination, are needed per acre. The purpose of the experiment on Hildabrand Creek, is largely

to prove or disprove these suppositions. If successful, direct seeding with cracked seeds may come to have considerable application on PFI land.

CHALLENGES MADE

Challenges of an unflattering nature have been floating back and forth between Potlatch, Clearwater and Rutledge in the matter of bowling prowess these last few weeks.

States Potlatch spokesman George Hudson, "We can't, of course, expect much in the way of competition from either Clearwater or Rutledge but are willing to play a match so that the fellows from Clearwater and Rutledge may have opportunity to see a good team, the Potlatch team, in action."

Answering letters from Rutledge and Clearwater have been of unprintable nature.

America is still the land of opportunity where a man can start out digging ditches and wind up behind a desk—if he doesn't mind the financial sacrifice.