



PICTURE

What was once a race track, truck farms and orchards is now covered by the Clear-water Unit of Potlatch Forests, Inc.; progressing from a white pine sawmill in 25 years to a manufacturer of various species of lumber, plywood, veneer, pres - to -logs and pulp and paper.



The first issue of The Family Tree under the editorship of Leo Bodine was published. He succeeded E. F. Rapraeger who was called to active duty in the Army.

Incorporation of the first company organized for the purpose of erecting and maintaining log booms in the Clearwater River was made on January 22, 1863. It followed by one week incorporation of the city of Lewiston and preceded admittance of the State of Idaho to the Union by 27 years.

George McKinnon, logging camp foreman, died at the age of 62.

### 23 Minutes Out Of Every Hour

You're Working to Pay Your Federal Taxes!

The next time you take a look at the clock, think about this:

In every hour you work, just about 23 minutes goes to pay the excessive costs of Big Government-that's three hours a day-or 15 hours a week-eight days a month-more than three months a year out of your paycheck!

Or, let's look at it another way: 23 minutes out of every working hour means that everything you earned by working in January, and February, and March, and part of April-went for Federal taxes!

Yessir, 23 minutes every hour, three hours every day! As the saying goes, "that ain't hay !!"

Maybe we'd all better start watching this Tax Clock a little more closely. It would be even worse with an \$85 billion Federal Budget.

Big government means higher taxes and less freedom!



10 percent knotty Idaho white pine, 55 percent ponderosa pine, and 5 percent douglas fir, and larch.

The production of plywood in the new plant follows a simple pattern: first the face and back plys are edge-glued to the 4'x8' standard size. Glue is spread on both sides of the cores or crossbands, and the face, core, and back are laid together as in the final plywood. A number of such units are piled together, separated every six inches by a  $7/_8$ " plywood caul board inserted to equalize pressure on the new sheets.

### Soybean Glue

The glue used in the process is Monsanto No-Clamp soybean glue containing powdered soy beans, pine oil, caustic, silicate of soda and Santophen solution to prevent mold. It is mixed on the job in a 175-gallon Fluckinger glue mixer and spread on the cores by a Globe spreader which has the appearance of an over-sized clothes wringer.

After the glue has been applied and a number of panels stacked together, pressure is exerted in the plywood press manufactured by the Wienker-Marolf Company. The press is 54"x104" and has a 72" opening. Twenty minutes pressure at 150 pounds per square inch are required to form the panels, which are allowed to set overnight before trimming.

Farther down the manufacturing line, a Globe skinner saw rips the panels to standard four-foot width, and a Mereen-Johnson equalizer trims them to eight-foot length. A smooth finish top and bottom is put on by a Yates-American sander which sands the full four-foot width of the panels. (Continued on page 8)

Plywood panels left to right are, clear ponderosa pine, clear larch and Idaho Knotty White pine.



From top to bottom picture shows the various stages in the manufacture of plywood. Top is a panel emerging from the sander. Inset is the huge press that sets the glue of the panels and the bottom, cores and crossbands coming out of the glue applicator.

**P**AUL BUNYAN raised an eyebrow July 7 when plywood production started at the Clearwater veneer plant. The plant, which has been producing veneer for three years, was recently expanded with the addition of plywood manufacturing machinery.

The production of plywood will make possible the utilization of lower grade veneer in cores and cross bands, saving high quality stock for outside faces. Both clear and knotty pine panels have been made so far, generally in five and three-ply panels respectively. Anticipated production will be





A view of Clearwater Unit of PFI as it exists today.

### FIRST MIXED TIMBER CAMP STARTED IN 1943

In May, 1943, the first P.F.I. camp to log mixed timber was established at Camp 53 above Waha on Craig Mountain. Mixed ponderosa pine and fir timber was cut and sent to the Clearwater mill.

Camp 58 at McComas Meadows was the second camp to log mixed timber. It was established in the summer of 1943 to supply a demand for ammunition and other war box lumber.

#### CLEARWATER-PLANT HELD NATIONAL SAFETY RECORD IN 1938

The Clearwater plant at one time held a national safety record for elapsed time between lost time accidents. 564,130 man hours of work were completed between May 23 and November 21, 1938 without an accident causing lost time. This was an all-time national record in sawmills throughout the country.



The above pictures show the transformati trial plant. Left shows the farms and orch the start of construction with the machine

TO youngsters in P.F.I. operations, August 8, 1927 probably doesn't mean much. But to the old-timers, it was the memorable day when the first log was sawn at Clearwater. Now, in August, 1952, as we commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Clearwater mill, there are only 26 men left from the original crew who have had continuous service since the mill started. In the woods only 4 remain.

The Clearwater Timber Company, predecessor of Clearwater Unit, was originally incorporated under the laws of the state of Washington, December 13, 1900. It was the oldest of the three companies that were merged in 1931 to form Potlatch Forests, Inc., although-it was the last to produce lumber.

### **First Trustees**

The first trustees of the original company were John A. Humbird, President and Treasurer, Frederick Weyerhaeuser, Vice-President, John E. Glover, Secretary, Edward Rutledge and George S. Long.

The first twenty-five years in the life of the company were spent in buying timber, protecting it from fire, and making investigations for operating the holdings. In these years John P. Weyerhaeuser, T. J. Humbird, W. H. Farnham and Theodore Fohl were the entire personnel of the company. John A. Humbird was President of the company until his death in 1911, after which he was succeeded by his son, T. J. Humbird.

Many years were spent searching for a suitable site for the Clearwater mill. Finally, after false starts at Ahsahka, Orofino and Big Island, Lewiston was chosen as the site of the new mill.

Office Opened In 1925 In April, 1925, an office was op-

1

ened in Lewiston and plans were made and construction was started on which is now the largest white pine mill in the world.

The mill site is located in East Lewiston on what used to be the old Lewiston Fair Grounds. The lumber loading docks are about where the race track used to be, and the time office at the gate is at the edge of what was one of the early auto parks of the West. The pond area was intensively cultivated for fruits and vegetables by forty-one families who made their homes on the land.

Construction of the plant was started in February, 1926. While the plant was being built the Electric Bond and Share group, through a subsidiary; was building the pond, and the Northern Pacific Railway Company, by arrangement with the Union Pacific Railroad and the Clearwater Timber Company. was building the railroad from Orofino into the timber at Headquarters. Eighteen months were consumed with the construction of the mill and on August 8, 1927 the first log was sawn at Clearwater. The first car of lumber was shipped September 16, 1927 to the North Columbus Lumber Company, Columbus, Ohio.

### PFI Formed In 1931

When Potlatch Forests, Inc., was formed by merger in 1931, the Clearwater mill became known as Clearwater Unit. C. L. Billings was the first manager of Clearwater Unit. In 1933 Billings was elected Vice-President and General Manager of PFI and Otto H. Leuschel became the new manager of Clearwater Unit. G. F. Jewett was elected President in 1946.

A revolutionary new product was developed at Clearwater in 1930 when Engineer R. T. Bowling perfected the Pres-to-log. Experiments were started in 1929 and the first machine, which made 81/3-inch briquettes, was built for the company by the Willamette Iron and Steel Works. Two larger machines making the now standard 12-inch Pres-to-log were added in the summer of 1932.

Here at last, after countless unsuccessful attempts, was a clean, economical fuel made from wood waste, a fuel that formed no clinkers and had an extremely low ash content. The history of Pres-to-logs is famous; 112 machines are now in operation all over the world, including 6 in 4 different foreign countries.

### Stoker Fuel Introduced

In 1939 Pres-to-logs further invaded the market with the introduction of its stoker fuel. This fuel combined all of the advantages of Pres-to-logs with the convenient stoker size and has become very popular. It holds fire well during off periods, reacts quickly to control changes, has uniform combustion during on-periods and requires less combustion air than coal. In addition, it creates no obnoxious combustion gases.

eates no obnoxious combustion gases. Eighteen Pres-to-logs stoker fuel ma-Eighteen Pres-to-logs stoker fuel ma-

chines are now operating, including 2 machines in 2 different foreign countries.

Changes and additions to plant and woods operations have been many and varied during the last few years. In the woods logging trucks have grown over the years until today all others are dwarfed by the giant 100ton Peterbilts powered with 300-horsepower Cummins diesel engines. Horse logging has given way to skidding with tractors and jammers; even the time-honored river wannigans are now mounted on rubber pontoons instead of cedar poles. Power saws have replaced the long familiar cross-cuts.

### Wide Glue Lumber

At the mill many new products and production methods have been developped. Wide glue lumber was developed by R. T. Bowling in 1940. A hot press was designed to cement lumber edge-glued with ureaformaldehyde (synthetic resin) glue after only  $11/_2$  to 2 minutes at 350 degrees F.

A 10,000 kw steam turbine generator weighing 210 tons was installed in the powerhouse in July, 1941, making it possible for the plant to generate its own electricity.

When World War II broke out December 7, 1941, the 1500 men and women in Clearwater woods and mill opperations quickly rallied to the support of their country and they proceeded to break all-time production records and then turn around and break them again. Women replaced men on scores and scores of jobs, releasing them to fight for their country. Those who could not serve in uniform were more than glad to stay and do their share in backing up the boys at the front. The Clearwater mill was the first unit of the company to have 100 per cent pledges of war bond sales, amounting to \$3.68 per man per month average.

### Cut-Up Department Formed

The end of the war brought the boys back from the service, and brought many more changes in company operations. The mill engineering office, built during the war, was enlarged to its present size in 1948. More attention was given to the development of new products and production methods. In 1947 the Cutup department was established, producing industrial cut stock and electronically-glued lumber. The electronic glue machine glued wide panels together in the amazing time of six seconds, using highfrequency electric current of 13 million cycles per second.

On June 20, 1948 the entire company was stunned by the passing of General Manager C. L. Billings. First manager of Clearwater Unit, Mr. Billings had endeared himself to the heart of every Potlatcher. A humanitarian, he had risen to the top in the great American tradition but had kept his door open to anyone who wanted to counsel with him. O. H. Leuschel was appointed acting

6



Other 25 year veterans are shown left to right—Arch Morris, Oscar Swanson and Dan Holden.



Above and below show other 25 year veterans. Above, left to right, R. O. Walters, Ken Ross, Orville Frazier, C. E. Minster, Noah Howell and Walt Locke. Below, left to right, Sig Carlson, Al Miller, Martin Estlund and Charlie Riddle.





the area in east Lewiston to the modern industat are now part of the mill pond. Center shows on the left and the frame-work for the sawmill

General Manager following the death of Mr. Billings.

### Veneer Plant

Expansion of Clearwater activities continued in 1949 with the opening of the new veneer plant. Manufacture of pine veneer offered the chance to obtain a greater return from the best peeler-type logs in the woods, and brought more jobs and a bigger payroll to North Idaho. At the present writing the veneer plant has been expanded to include the production of plywood, which will mean better utilization of lower quality veneer which may be used for cores and cross-bands.

In 1949 Mr. William P. Davis was elected President and General Manager of Potlatch Forests, Inc. Drawing from his vast experience in the pulp and paper industry, he has guided the company in its expansion into this new field. With the construction of the pulp and paper mill at Clearwater in 1950, a great step has been made by the company in the direction of more complete untilization of forest resources. Now, in 1952, the mill is being expanded to twice its original capacity.

### **Pulp And Paper**

With the advent of the pulp and paper mill, and the grouping of various plants at one millsite, the Clearwater mill has attained the greatest diversified manufacturing within company operations. A greater utilization from each log harvested is obtained when each log is processed into the products for which it is best suited, whether it be lumber, plywood, or paper. The company is nearing its goal of complete utilization of forest prodwith more employment, ucts. steadier jobs, and more diversification of products from one unit.

Mill payrolls have totaled more

(Continued on page 9)

on the right. Right shows the Clearwater Unit prior to the construction of the veneer plant and pulp and paper mill.

### BOX FACTORY SET NATIONAL SAFETY RECORD

The Clearwater fox factory set a national safety record in 1952 of two years without a lost time accident. The fifty department employees worked a total of over 250,000 man hours to set the record, and at this writing they have accumulated more than 284,000 hours, or more than 2½ years, without an accident causing lost time.

In April, Riley Worley and his entire box factory crew were treated to steak dinners at company expense in recognition for their outstanding safety record. Clearwater Production Superintendent C. J. Cummerford presented the department a plaque which had been awarded by the National Safety Council.

### WET PRES-TO-LOGS EXPAND, DESTROYED SHED

November 21, 1939 was a day long remembered on the Clearwater plant. A water main broke the night before and sprayed a steady stream of water over thousands of tons of Pres-to-logs piled in storage.

Swelling upward and outward, the logs snapped upright timbers and bulged the walls of the building outward to the breaking point. Hundreds of tons of logs fell on the rest rooms and office, crushing them to shambles. When the final count was taken, 2000 tons of Presto-logs were ruined by the spraying water, and the carpenter crew was kept busy for some time repairing the building.



## PRETTY SUITE FOR HARRY

The following editorial appeared in a California paper and presents a problem that we must face.

"President Truman is out of the hospital, well over the virus infection that fevered him for several days. He is feeling fit and fine. We're glad of it. We've never nursed any personal grudge against this controversial little man, though we've thought many of his policies stank beyond hope of chlorophyll.

While enduring his mild illness, the President was housed in the presidential suite of the Army's Walter Reed Hospital.

This suite used to be just plain Ward 8. But it was remodeled in 1947 to encompass a dining room, living room, bedroom, sun parlor and bath. The total cost of renovation was \$148,000, and this is the first time the President has used it, though old Mohammed Mossadegh, the recently junked and now restored Premier of Iran, was ensconced in it briefly on his trip here last year.

Maybe we shouldn't make so much of it, but it seems to us that here, in one tiny illustration, is the epitome of the Fair Deal's imperial extravagance:

To create a regal hospital suite which the President has used only once in his administration, the Fair Deal spent the total income taxes of 296 above-average Americans (figuring the individual tax at \$500 each)!

Harry has really achieved socialized medicine!"

#### PLYWOOD (Continued from page 3) Sled Patch Cutter

Equipment has been received for a sled patch defect cutter which will be used to cut long, narrow slits in faces and backs to remove cracks and other defects. A sled patch maker will be added to cut patches to fit, and the patches will be glued by an "R.F." setter, or electronic gluing machine. Repaired panels will go to a belt sander which will sand the patch smooth to match the rest of the panel.

The installation of the new machinery has been under the supervision of engineer Homer Huberthal, Lawrence Bashore, veneer plant superintendent, reports. Carl Tweitmeyer's duties as green end foreman have been expanded to include plywood production. Tom Seetin is dry veneer foreman, and Everett Knox his assistant. Frank Faulk is foreman of the night shift.

Like father, like son — Another in a series of father and son combinations within the company. This month we have the two Sandersons, Byers, Jr., on the left and Byers, Sr., on the right.

# LIKE FATHER...Like Son

(Another in a series of articles about fathers and sons working for the company.)

Up on the Bovill side there are two Byers Sandersons. Byers, Sr., is a boiler maker in the Bovill shops and started working for the company back in 1913. His first job was in old Camp 8 operating stationary engines, light plants, shops, and boiler air compressors. When he started, eight steam engines and six steam log loaders were in operation on the Bovill side. Byers is a jolly type, easy to get along with, and is a good steady employee.

Byers Sanderson, Jr., is a shovel operator at Camp 40. He started working for the company in 1940 on a steel gang at Camp 12. He has worked on a powder crew, has operated shovels and trucks, and is now Osgood loader operator at Camp 40.

Byers, Jr., and his father both like to fish and often go out together. In the fall during hunting season they are also together, tracking the game trails. "Like father, like son" certainly applies to the Sandersons.



"It gives us a big laugh - that's his wife, and every now and then he refuses to cash his checks for her"

# CLEARWATER UNIT NEWS

### DON DOWNING PASSES

Don Downing, lancer in the Clearwater pulp and paper mill powerhouse, died June 9 from the effects of pneumonia and a cardiac condition. Don was born in Dudley County, Iowa in 1897, and started working for the company in the Clearwater rough storage department in 1936.

Working up through the unstacker and grading departments, Don was a rough select grader when he quit work in 1951. Returning later in the year, he worked in the pulp and paper mill powerhouse until his death this year. He is survived by his brother George at Emmett, Idaho. OLIVER BREWER RETIRES

Oliver Brewer, Clearwater veneer plant cleanup man, retired May 6. Oliver has been employed at Clearwater since 1944, mostly as a watchman. He says he "aims to take life easy."

He says he "aims to take life easy." FRANK YOUNG RETIRES

Frank Young, Clearwater dress shed cleanup man, retired June 30 after a 24-year work record with the company. Frank started Sept. 13, 1928 in the dress shed. At various times he worked in the replant, rough storage, carpenters, green chain and loading dock departments.

"Frank retires with an outstanding record," dress shed foreman Vern Olson says, "and we are sorry to see him go." GUS FRANTZICH RETIRES

Gus Frantzich, gate watchman at Clearwater, retired July 1 after 22 years' service with the company. Gus started working at Clearwater in 1926 when the mill was being built. He has had steady

### LUMBER APLENTY

Since the birth of our nation in 1776, the lumber industry has produced enough lumber to build a 4-foot walk (1-inch thick) from here to the sun.

(Data: The sun is 92,900,000 miles from the earth. Since 1776, an estimated 2,400 billion board feet of lumber have been produced. Divide 2,400 billion by 4 and you get 600 billion. This divided by 5,280 results in 113,636,364 miles—more than the distance from here to the sun.)

Yet during all these years new forests have arisen to provide for our needs. Estimates some years ago showed that our annual wood growth would make a tree ten feet in diameter, which would wrap around the world at the equator with 7,339 miles overlap.

(Data: Amount of growth per year in 1945 was 13.37 billion cubic feet. The cross-sectional area of a tree ten feet in diameter is 78.54 square feet. Divide that into 13.37 billion and you get 170,-231,729 feet as the length of the tree ten feet in diameter. This divided by 5,280 gives you 32,241 miles. Since the equatorial circumference of the earth is 24,902.39 miles, the tree would reach around once with 7,339 miles left over.)

employment since 1930, mostly in the powerhouse and watch crews.

### FRED WHITINGER RETIRES

Fred Whitinger, also a Clearwater watchman, retired July 1 after 24 years with PFI. Fred started back in 1928 in the dress shed and spent a number of years in that department. In 1940 he transferred to the watch crew.

Watch Foreman Cully Bing and the entire watch crew join in wishing Gus and Fred well in their retirement.



Above is a photo copy of the first invoice of the Clearwater Timber Company. It called for 2437 pieces of 2"x4" 16' white fir to be shipped to the North Columbus Lumber Company, Columbus, Ohio.



The road from the river landing to the new bridge across the Little North Fork is now complete. The piling for the bridge is being prepared, and construction work on the bridge itself will start soon.

Hauling will start soon, with about 3 million feet of logs already in decks. A new river landing has been completed and is ready for use.

The construction of a truck road down the flume has been hindered by steep, rocky ground, but a bulldozer and a drilling crew should finish the road within a month.

### CAMP 40

Sawing, skidding, and construction operations have progressed steadily the past month. Camp men report that they have been invaded by fishermen who seem to be happy with their catches from the area.

### CAMP Y

The small crew is primarily concerned with crushing and stack-piling gravel, however, road maintenance in preparation for logging is progressing steadily. One loading crew is skidding and decking behind the sawyers. Work has started on the river landing where 9 million feet of logs were decked last year waiting for the spring drive.

### 25 Years

### (Continued from page 7)

than 52 million dollars since the birth of Clearwater Unit, and woods payroll has provided an additional 41 million. Clearwater has proven itself to be a responsible citizen in its community, state, and nation.

#### Theodore Fohl

If Clearwater Unit had a father, Theodore Fohl must be given the credit. Coming to Idaho in 1894, German-born Fohl located homesteaders and cruised timber for the state. Impressed with the future of the land, he endeavored to interest various lumbermen in North Idaho and in 1900 succeeded with the organization of the Clearwater Timber Company. He was also largely responsible for the protection of the timber holdings from fire in the early years and in 1906 assisted in organizing the Clearwater Timber Protective Association. He served for many years as its first fire warden. The words of Theodore Fohl aptly sum

The words of Theodore Fohl aptly sum up the aims and purposes of Clearwater Unit, and of Potlatch Forests, Inc., as well: "It takes faith in the future to make plans in terms of a century . . . forest land management plans aimed at permanency of operation are possible of accomplishment and can be made to work."

About one-third of the area of the United States is forest land. Of this, an area of approximately 461,700,000 acres grows, or is capable of growing, commercially valuable timber.

The most unpopular man in Washington is the fellow who suggests ways of saving the taxpayer's money.



The Presbyterian Community Church at Potlatch as it was known and seen prior to the fire which wholly destroyed it one year ago.

# ONE YEAR AGO

### by Louise Nygaard

July 30 marked the first anniver-sary of the burning of the Presbyterian Community Church at Potlatch. Though the building was completely destroyed, firemen fought valiantly to keep the blaze from extending beyond the church premises. The town will never forget the horror of that night when the entire countryside was lighted as day, and ashes flew about dropping scraps of Bibles, song books and school readers. Flames lapped at the Parsonage next to the church and the school across the street, but dam-age was avoided by the untiring efforts of local citizens and fire squads from Potlatch and Moscow.

The Church was dedicated in 1912 and was then known as the Union Church; Rev. Charles R. Scafe was its first pastor. When it was built it was the largest church in Latah Coun-ty and could seat approximately 1000 people.

The roof dome was rounded and the upstairs auditorium ceiling was made from unique varnished cedar boards, with many hanging light fixtures. Many arched stained glass windows graced the church, gifts of A. W. Laird, former manager at Potlatch. product of generous contributions of The main auditorium was carpeted in sweat and toil, labor and love.

green, the immense carpet representing the accumulation of many gifts. large and small. The downstairs floor included seven Sunday School rooms, a study, a large kitchen, bathrooms, and storerooms. Two rooms in the basement, as well as five upstairs rooms, were used by the Potlatch school system.

The church would have been forty years old this year. Throughout the thirty-nine years of its life it left its mark in the hearts of many of the residents of Potlatch. Since the church burned last year Rev. Joe Anderson has carried on, holding services every Sunday in the Fraternal Hall.

Plans for the new church were drawn by Gaylord Richardson and Tom Youmans, and a new location has been established on Knob Hill. Forms have been made, and concrete will soon have been poured. Mem-bers of the church will donate labor to complete the reconstruction, with the goal of finishing the job next year, according to George Alexander, building chairman.

Before another year, church members hope to see their new church rise out of the ashes of the old, the

### **Pond Foreman Retired**

Dan P. Devine, born June 13, 1887, in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, came West as a young man, landing around this vicinity about 41 years ago, putting in that many years all told for the Company. In the woods department, he worked as top loader, scaler, crunser, camp boss and all the various miscellaneous jobs within a lumber camp. In 1943 he started working as Pond Man for the Potlatch Unit, later promoted to Pond Foreman, which job he held until his retirement July 27, 1952. He has a wonderful work with the company, always being record cheerful and cooperative.

He and his wife, Julian, are making their home in Spokane where their three sons and daughter live.

Dan's hobbies are definitely hunting and fishing, and he plans to devote more time to these sports now that he is retired.

# Letter From Karl Balling

The following letter was received from Karl Balling who was employed at Clearwater Unit under a State Department program:

Herford, July 18, 1952 Wolfgang Karl Balling Herford-Diebrock Engerstr. 72 Germany To Potlatch Forests, Inc. Lewiston, Idaho USA

Gentlemen:

The last time, I frequently had the pleasure to get a copy of your papers "The Family Tree" and "The Clearwater Log." I believe, it is not necessary to mention how pleased I am every time, the mail brings me that letter with the green stripe and what a nice feeling it is to get to know, what is happening within the town of Lewiston and the plant, where I felt beeing at home for a long time. Many persons you are writing about and whose pictures I can see in your papers, are still well known to me and it is always interesting to hear, how the crew and the plant is going along.

After my return to Germany I am still in the lumber business and now have a job as an assistant manager in a middle sized ply wood plant. Although we have different kinds of working methods, I often could make valuable use of the experience I gained during my stav in the USA. When having trouble with the small and bad quality logs, which we mostly have to use, I often wish to be owner of the Lewiston pond with its wonderful pine trees. But as this has to remain a vision, I probably further have to take care of the European quantities.

I do hope, I shall further have the possibility to enjoy your letters for a long time and I hereby take the opportunity to thank you very much for your obligingless.

I am, Gentlemen,

With kindly regards,

yours, s/ W. Karl Balling

Cones on an Idaho White Pine tree are slender and from six to twelve inches long.