

The FAMILY TREE

Published by Potlatch Forests, Inc.

Vol. I

Lewiston, Idaho, May, 1937

Number 8

Blackwell Whistle Blows for the Last Time

The Coeur d'Alene Press of May 3rd carried a full page announcement of one of the largest transfers of ownership in recent history of Inland Empire lumbering. The Blackwell Lumber Company of Coeur d'Alene, after an operation of approximately 30 years, suspended production after the sale of its logs, lumber and timber holdings to Potlatch Forests, Inc.

To the press, Mr. Carlton R. Smith, president of the Blackwell firm, gave the following statement:

"The timber holdings of the company have diminished to a point where additional timber must be acquired if the operations are to continue and the milling facilities require the expenditure of additional capital funds if existing manufacturing is to be continued. Under present economic conditions, the stockholders of the company are reluctant to advance funds to acquire further timber. The present tax laws practically preclude borrowing money for the purpose of improving plant. Earnings cannot be applied to the payment of debts so created, except after payment of almost prohibitive taxes on the money so applied to the retirement of the debt. The ever increasing taxes, high operating costs and other burdens being imposed upon industry through legislation, together with the threat that legislation imposing burdens similar to the N.R.A. may be enacted, have combined to force the stockholders of the company to the conclusion that it is better to discontinue than to advance or borrow further moneys . . ."

Our company made the following statement:

"It is with deep regret that Potlatch Forests, Inc., witnesses the termination of the operations of the Blackwell Lumber Company. Relations between these competitors in the same industry have always been on a high level. The Blackwell people have been good

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A Good Outfit

The Potlatch Unit is the oldest of our family group from the standpoint of number of years of operation. They have been manufacturing and shipping good White Pine for thirty-one years and the average Potlatcher points with pride to those years.

The normal operating crew comprises about 450 men. Out of this number 50% have been there from eleven to thirty-one years and 25% of the total have been there over fifteen years. This is an enviable record from the standpoint of years, but other things enter into the picture which emphasize a good outfit.

They have not only worked at their jobs during those years, but they and their families have given much to the community life. They have pride in their homes and their town and have been jealous of its good name. They have kept it a good place to live in and in which to raise their families.

It is a community of good citizens and for that reason a good outfit.

J. J. O'CONNELL,
Potlatch Unit Manager.



"I HOPE THEY DON'T USE PRES-TO-LOGS!"

1937 Log Drive In

With comparatively little fuss and bother, the 1937 drive slid into the Clearwater forebay to the total of about 32 million feet of white pine during the latter part of April and the first of May. The rearing has started and will be finished in about two weeks, given good weather.

Such an apparently smooth and simple means of transporting these logs from the woods to the mill left us with nothing much to write about so we asked J. L. Webb, riverman, if log driving had deteriorated from the man-sized job it once was. Every once in awhile we had presence of mind enough to take a few notes on what Mr. Webb told us and the following is the result:

In the days some 60 odd years ago when Webb started his river and woods experience, drive crews were not quite the same as we find them in 1937. In the early 70's, before Peavey had invented his famous "hook," swing dogs were in use. These were almost the same as the peavey but had the hook connected to the handle with a link and required the placing of the hook in the log by hand before starting to "reef on 'er."

In a crew of 50 men, five of them would have swing dogs or peaveys and the rest would have what was known as barefooted poles or handspikes. Nowadays, everyone on a drive crew has a peavey.

When asked if he could tell where the first river driving was done, Mr. Webb stated that he would guess that the Penobscot and St. Johns Rivers were the first to be used in driving logs.

In the 70's and 80's, logging methods would have been too slow to satisfy our present day high ball requirements. Roads and yards were cleared during the fall and the actual falling of the trees done before the snow became too heavy. When deep snow made it impossible to cut trees, the roadways and yards were cleared

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THE FAMILY TREE



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

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Miss B. Stoddard, Coeur d'Alene.....
..... Assoc. Editor
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..... Assoc. Editor

Down the Editor's Alley

Perspiring in the office with seemingly midsummer heat in May, has given us an idea for a year 'round location for the Family Tree editorial staff. From December until May we could enjoy the balmy spring weather and ripe bananas of the Lewiston district. Then, when the mercury started to percolate in the Clearwater Valley, the change to the cool lake breezes (and bathing beauties) of Coeur d'Alene would be delightful from May until August. By that time, the delights of the resort city having begun to pall a little, the change to the town of Potlatch at least sounds good. There during August, September, October and November, one could enjoy the cool fall weather of the mountains, plus chink and deer hunting and college football in your back yard. Gentle reader, is there anything wrong with this picture?

"The average family's annual share of the cost of crime, it is said, is about \$240, not counting mother's losses at contract bridge and father's ticket on the Irish Hospital Sweepstakes."—The Houghton Line.

We are making a request in this issue to all our readers in the Sales Company to keep their eyes peeled for

some unusual use of I. W. P. which would make interesting reading. In fact, the Family Tree would be glad to receive suggestions and contributions on any subject from you boys who carry the portfolios.

Facts About Wood

Most of us find it hard to believe the statement that pine wood weighs as much as oak or walnut or any of our, so-called hard, heavy woods. However, such a statement is true if we consider the actual substance or solid material of what we generally call "wood." Wood substance is about 1.6 times as heavy as water and will not float.

Such a positive declaration needs some explanation and to do so we've got to dig into a little elementary wood structure. All woods are of a cellular structure, a cell being a minute cavity surrounded and enclosed by a wall. In manufacturing lumber, the cavity may contain air or water, depending on the state of dryness of the lumber, and, as we have all noticed, the weight of that lumber will depend on whether or not there is air or water in those cell cavities. However, another condition enters into the reason for one piece of a certain species of wood weighing more or less than a similar piece of the same species. This is what is generally referred to as the "density" of the piece and is nothing more than the condition of the thickness of the cell walls in comparison to the size of the cavities which they enclose. The thicker the cell wall, generally the "denser" the wood.

The material of which these cell walls are constructed is what we have referred to above as "wood substance," and it is true that this material has the same weight in all kinds of wood. We know that a board foot of pine weighs considerably less than the same amount of oak, but it is for the reason that the lighter wood with its thinner cell walls has less of this material per unit of volume than the heavier wood. The same phenomenon occurs when, due to your heavy tread or careless slamming of the door, the wife has a cake "failure." She used the same amounts of the same materials but a mouthful of the fallen cake obviously weighs more than the same portion of a good one. The reason is the same as that which causes oak to be heavier than pine, more substance per unit of volume.

Teaming Up for Safety

The point which all safety programs strive to attain is that of gaining the interest of the majority. The business of safety is too easily left to the safety man, the safety committee, or a few interested parties and this inclination to leave safety to the safety department, lies the weakness which must be corrected before the much-desired days without lost time accidents can start piling up.

How many of us will let the man next to us go unaided when the job is too big for him? The instinct to pitch in and give a hand is so strong that we do it without a thought. On the other hand, how many times have we looked at a man doing a dangerous thing and let him risk his life and limb because of an equally deep-seated conviction that it's none of our business if the man wants to kill himself. There's no argument about whether this attitude is correct or not but it surely exists.

We can't remove this common prejudice in a short time. It will take time and education and a desire, starting with a few spreading to many, to everyone enjoying steady work and consistent earnings.

Questions and Answers

Please explain the lath-dipping process used by the Clearwater Plant.

The lath manufactured at the Clearwater Plant is dipped to prevent blue stain. Lignasin is the chemical used for this purpose and is prepared in a solution of 1 pound to about 50 gallons of water. The lath bundles are thrown into the tank containing the solution and allowed to remain a few seconds, and then removed, drained and placed on trucks for seasoning.

Blue stain is the result of the activity of the blue stain fungus. This is a parasitic organism belonging to the plant kingdom which lives in wood. Wet lumber offers an ideal place for the spore or "seeds" of this fungus to light and grow. The threadlike growth of the fungus, which cannot be seen with the naked eye, penetrates the cell walls and gets its food from the substance of the cell. The action in which it consumes the cell material results in the staining of the wood.

Another one on poor Dumb Doc. She thinks the Battle of Sedan was a petting party.

1937 LOG DRIVE

(Continued from page one)

out and the logs which had been decked in the yards during the fall were hauled to the landing on the river.

In almost all cases, except where trees were too long to be handled full length, the entire tree was hauled to the yard in logging and later to the landing. It was at the landing that the log lengths were cut and, in the earlier days, this was done entirely with axes. Axemen were axemen in those days for no saws were to be had. Later, in the early 80's, saws were used to cut logs, though not used in falling trees. The 1870's saw very few "burrs" in the woods.

Thinking of the small cats snorting the stranded logs into the Clearwater for our rearing crew, we asked Mr. Webb how they used to do it. In the northeast, the stranded logs were put into the water by brute strength, either from man or beast. Incidentally, 18 men were supposed to pull as big a log as a pair of 1600 lb. horses. Later, rolling dogs or pins were used. These were nothing more nor less than iron pins that were driven into the end of the log as near to the center as possible. A link was thrown over each pin and two horses hauled the log to the water "a la" lawn roller or Maggie's rolling pin. Webb's experience on the Mississippi, where there was plenty of water, saw him using steam boats and steam capstans to snake logs off the farmers' pasture or out of the sloughs and creeks.

Speaking of pasture, Mr. Webb described a cute little trick the farmers used to practice. They would measure up the total acreage of land on which logs had lain waiting to be retrieved. For example, one log would cover a spot 12 inches wide and 16 feet long. This would be calculated in acres and a charge made to the lumber company for the loss of the grass which would not grow where the log had lain. Webb said that these charges were paid, too.

Wages were somewhat lower. \$12 per month and board was a good wage. This included four meals per day, however, and four logging camp meals should amount to something. Work started at 5 a. m. and ended at 7 p. m., and all leisure time was spent in eating or sleeping in the long bunks which extended the full length of the shelter and were covered by blankets equally long. Tough was the fellow's

luck who was too light in the ballast to hold his own when the pressure from the ends got severe on cold nights and was boosted up on top. The foot of the bed had a stout pole along its length and, from its use in relieving leg cramps contracted from the cold river water, was called the "snorting pole." This may or may not have been the origination of the present phrase.

After several attempts to get Mr. Webb to tell of some of the close calls which he must have had, he did tell us of the time he and his partner decided to stay with the drive boss when he pulled the key log in a jam. After some hard language from the boss who ordered them ashore, Webb decided caution was the better policy, but Bill Sharp, his partner decided to stick it out until the jam broke. When they went out, Sharp and Ross, the foreman, headed for shore but Ross soon fell and went down. Watching for him to reappear, Sharp jumped in on the opposite side of the log near which Ross came up and grabbed him with his arms across the log. They rode it through the rapids this way and were picked up by the bateaus in the eddy, Ross with a broken leg.

Ross, in the boat again, groaned and looked at Sharp.

"You son of a b——, you did save my life!" he exclaimed in mingled pain and disgust.

Webb's closest squeak, so he says, came when he and Dan Hurley ran the Big Falls of the Eau Claire in a bateau. The river boss was willing to risk the boat if they were fools enough to try a stunt that had never been done before. These two had watched logs go through and had noticed that some logs missed the big rock that lay exactly in the middle of the first pitch—and also noticed that some didn't. Figuring that this would be the chance they would have to take, they cleaned the boat of seats, etc., took an extra paddle apiece and shoved off.

But their luck wasn't in. Webb remembers seeing the boat split wide open on the rock and Dan heading over the bow. When he came up he was through the falls and rounding a bend in the river near an old gold mine. Men on the shore were throwing lines out to him, but being a strong swimmer, he waved them aside and swam it out into the eddy. Boats hauled them both out uninjured. "From this and other experiences from early boyhood, I've

always figured that water couldn't drown me," was J. L. Webb's comment.

BLACKWELL WHISTLE BLOWS FOR THE LAST TIME

(Continued from page one)

neighbors and honorable competitors.

"It has been apparent for some time that the sawmill capacity in this region has greatly exceeded the growing possibilities of the surrounding forest area. We are hopeful that the public will recognize the transaction between the Blackwell Lumber Company and Potlatch Forests, Inc., as a necessary step toward placing the lumber industry in this community upon a firmer and more permanent basis, which must ultimately be measured by the sustained yield capacity of the forests tributary to Coeur d'Alene.

"Potlatch Forests, Inc., believes that this is the best possible time from the standpoint of the community for taking of this step, for reasonably good market conditions will enable the starting of a second shift at the Rutledge Unit. And in this expansion of operations the company will be glad to offer employment to the largest possible number of former Blackwell employees."

Potlatch Forests has made every effort to ease the effect of this sudden end of employment on some 400 sawmill men of the Coeur d'Alene district. At the Rutledge plant the second shift of the sawmill and shipping departments has absorbed a good portion of the former Blackwell crew and some Blackwell men are being given employment at the Potlatch and Clearwater Units.

Two coons were bragging about how scared they had been. Rastus claimed he had been so frightened he could not move or say a word for ten minutes. His companion replied:

"Boy, does yo all thing yo has been scared? Jus' let me tell you about de time dat I wus scared onct. Ah was over to see a married gal friend of mine. I done knowed her old man wus out of town. All of a sudden dere cum a knock on de do' and Liza done open it. Dere was her hubby on de do' step. He done look at me and den at Liza and den he say:

"Liza, who is dat white man?"

Pres-to-logs Machine for Coeur d'Alene

Work was started this month on a Pres-to-logs plant to be operated in connection with the Rutledge plant at Coeur d'Alene. Two machines will be installed and it is anticipated that the manufacture of Pres-to-logs will commence some time in July.

The machine room will be located adjacent to the boiler room, to permit of utilizing the present blower system to obtain the refuse necessary. It will also be possible to use shavings from the outside storage pile. Flue gases obtained from the base of the stacks will be used as a drying agent to remove any excessive moisture in the material. The plant has been designed by Bob Bowling, and construction is under the direction of Harry Chase.

The old barn at Coeur d'Alene will be used for storage of Pres-to-logs, to be used for local sale, and a space under the remanufacturing plant will be used for additional storage.

It is expected that within a short time the local market in Coeur d'Alene and the adjacent orchard area will take most of the Pres-to-logs which it is possible to manufacture at Coeur d'Alene. This plant will also be in a better position to serve points in Northern Idaho and Washington, from the standpoint of transportation costs, than the present plants at Lewiston and Potlatch.

The sale of Pres-to-logs from all three plants will be centralized under the direction of the Fuel Department of Potlatch Forests, Inc., at Lewiston, Idaho.

Visitors

Visitors to the Lewiston plant during the past month have been Mr. W. R. Huff, manager of W. J. Huff and Sons, Decatur, Ill., and his son Robert Huff. This was the first trip west for Robert Huff and he was very much impressed by the country and the size of our operations.

Mr. Petterson and wife and daughter-in-law, of the Petterson Lumber Company, Sisseton, South Dakota, also visited during the month.

Doc Gibson: "Do you have any organic trouble?"

Bob: "No, Doctor-r, I canna carry a tune."

Sale of Company Ranch

Executed papers were received April 21 which consummated the deal for the tract of land lying east of Potlatch known as the "Company Ranch." A short time ago a sale of twenty-eight acres of agricultural land from this ranch lying north of Highway 95-E was made to Preston Bunney, of Princeton. This track blocks in with Mr. Bunney's home place. Thirty-three acres of similar land was conveyed to Fourth F. Thomas, also of Princeton. The final sale covering a tract of 568 acres cleans up the old Company Ranch which has been owned and operated many years by Potlatch Forests, Inc., the purchaser being Victor T. Morris. Of this area 262 acres are hill lands which produce grain and alfalfa, 186 acres being already producing the latter. The old timers in Potlatch recall when the hill land included in this sale was covered by a heavy growth of Yellow Pine, such as covered the entire Palouse region adjacent to Potlatch.

The large tract acquired by Mr. Morris is traversed its entire length by the Palouse River. The bottom land has been a phenomenally heavy producer, in past years yielding as high as four tons of timothy hay and 65 bushels of oats to the acre.

Highway 95-E cuts through the ranch.

A fine artesian well is on the place, from which water is piped to the barns, feed lots, dwelling and bunk houses.

The machinery and equipment, as well as the livestock, have practically all been disposed of at private sale.

Mr. Morris, the purchaser, is one of the progressive young farmers in this district. For several years he has operated the Freese place north of town, where he will continue to reside for the present. It is understood that his plans include, in the not far distant future, the erection of a fine modern home and electrically equipped outbuildings on the newly acquired ranch.

Young lady in drug store: "Have you any Life Buoy?"

Spike Baker, mistaken for drug clerk: "Just set the pace, Kid!"

Sales Predictions

For his contribution to The Family Tree this month, Mr. Pratt gave the choice of two letters from which we might quote. They said practically the same thing, but one said it a little more optimistically than the other, so we are quoting from it as follows: "Buying is still under normal conditions this time of year, but we are convinced that we need not fear the accumulation of a little lumber. Retailers and industrials are living off the inventories they accumulated during the latter part of the winter. The rapidly advancing market during this period caused considerable speculation, and is only natural that lumber distributors and industrial customers are anxious to lower their inventories, especially as the market seems to have reached a temporary top."

This statement is from a letter written by Mr. Harry T. Kendall, vice president and general manager of the Weyerhaeuser Sales Co.

The lack of new business has not affected shipping in our several units, and predictions are that it will gain speed in time to keep it from being affected very greatly.

Painting At Clearwater

The painting of the Clearwater Plant has been going on since the weather settled down to a Lewis and Clark spring and by now is well under way. George Schenfield, boss painter, informed us that the entire summer will be taken up with this work and estimated that possibly there would be some left over.

It is estimated that approximately 2,500 gallons of paint will be spread by gun and brush this summer by the crew of 11 men who are doing the work.

Of outside work there is 84,150 square yards to be covered, and a total of 85,742 square yards of inside work is laid out for the summer. This is a lot of square yards but the most startling way to look at it is in the number of acres it represents. Think of painting a total of 35 acres of surface!

Canibal King (rushing in): "Gosh, am I late for dinner again?"

Cannibal Queen: "Rather! Everybody's eaten."

Clearwater Woods Activities

At this writing, the drive crew is somewhere between the mouth of Beaver Creek and Big Island. No word has been received from them since they started April 27th.

The snow is a thing of the past at Headquarters and the road from here to Pierce is again a normal highway. This is news even to people living here.

CAMP "M"

Just getting started and the clerk is too darn busy seeing that Camp "M" gets their share of supplies from the warehouse at the end of the steel.

CAMP "O"

After two weeks of shoveling out, Camp "O" flumed its first logs on the first day of spring, April 30th (observation made from the weather, not the calendar).

Snow is still pretty much of a problem, being hard packed, heavy, and still running four feet deep in draws and on north slopes with better than a foot left on south slopes.

There has been a crew of about 70 men working during the last two weeks of April—40 sawyers, 20 snow shovelers and the rest bull cooking around as best they could to help get things started.

The sawyers have about 1,500,000 ft. of white pine on the ground. With teams, teamsters and swampers beginning to arrive, Camp "O" expects to be logging with a full crew within a week.

CAMP 14

Camp opened on April 3rd and since then we have been making good progress.

We, ourselves, didn't get a lot of logging done, but we got Camps "O" and "M" ready for logging. Our main crew, the first couple of weeks, was rebuilding Camp "O's" cookhouse, which was flattened last winter. During the latter part of the month, we had a crew remodeling Camp "M's" cookhouse. This is undoubtedly the largest cookhouse, not dining room, in the Clearwater today.

Had one bulldozer going strong all month. He had to get roads plowed out to all camps, to the river, and over Bertha Hill. Slides were pretty numerous for awhile and kept the dozer plenty busy.

Our crew itself is mostly sawyers. We cut 1,903,830 ft. and are ready to

skid when conditions permit. Skidding will probably be delayed, however, for a couple of weeks.

Snow has been fast disappearing and, in another week, will be gone, we hope.

CAMP 20

Camp is closing at the present time. The crew will be gone in two days, and the camp will then be occupied by brush pilers.

Ashley and Lynch are contracting all the brush disposal at this camp.

This chance is about $\frac{2}{3}$ cut out this winter. The remaining timber will likely be removed this coming fall or winter.

CAMP 21

Camp 21 is now in about the same bracket as a fighter in the ring, who is taking the count of ten.

In ten days or two weeks the number ten will be called.

The camp will then be moved to its original setting on Bingo Creek and will be known as Camp 11.

CAMP 22

By the time this is printed, Camp 22 will be but a memory. Skidding was finished May 1st, and only a few more days' work remain to finish making cedar poles and cleaning up the camp preparatory to closing it. Approximately 16,000,000 ft. of timber was cut at the camp during the winter season.

Only the brush remains to be piled and about 6,500 poles to be skidded. This will be done immediately and the crew will be transported to and from work by truck from Headquarters.

POIRIER & REIDT REED'S CREEK

Quite a change from last month. Snow is going fast, mostly all gone around camp, but still three feet in the woods.

Mud is the main topic so far and it runs from knee deep to deeper.

Have had two serious accidents since last month, one man with skull fracture and another with fractured left leg, and we are hoping for the best, for both of them. Also had another man with cracked ribs and he is getting along fine—working now.

We got in over $1\frac{1}{4}$ million again this last month.

The mud has washed down and left rocks that have broken up most of

our drays, but it is about over for them now.

Quite a number of the boys have gone out for a holiday as part of the Jammers are now shut down, now that the draying is over.

Safety Inspection Committee Visits

The plants of Potlatch Forests, Inc., at Coeur d'Alene, Potlatch, and Lewiston were visited during the week of May 3rd to 8th by an inspection committee comprised of a representative from each mill in the group covered for Industrial Insurance by the Workmen's Compensation Exchange. Included in the committee were:

Ralph S. Nelson and Spencer Nelson, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Workmen's Compensation Exchange.

John Shepherd, Safety Director Clearwater Unit, Potlatch Forests, Inc., Lewiston, Idaho;

Charlie Leaf, Boise, Idaho;

Joel Brown and S. V. Griffith, Boise-Payette Lumber Co., Emmett, Idaho;

Al Bradeen, Winton Lumber Co., Coeur d'Alene, Idaho;

George Stillwell, Chairman Safety Committee, Potlatch Unit, Potlatch Forests, Inc., Potlatch, Idaho.

Inspection of plants within the group have been made periodically since the formation of the Workmen's Compensation Exchange in 1918, with the thought that a visiting lumberman might detect a hazard in his neighbor's operation which might be overlooked in the daily routine.

The grizzled mountaineer sat in a kitchen with his wife. They were drinking corn liquor out of a gallon jug. At 4 a. m. the door opened and their pretty, 18-year-old daughter breezed in.

The old man jumped up.

"Where you all been?" he thundered.

"Nowheres," returned the girl easily. "Nowheres."

The mountaineer slammed the jug on the table.

"Don't yo lie to me," he bellowed.

"Any gal who comes home sober at this hyer hour has been up ter some-thin'!"

STRICTLY UNDER COVER

Ray: "I don't see what keeps you women from freezing."

Loretta: "You aren't supposed to, big boy."

Our Product—Its Grades and Uses

Editor's Note: In response to a suggestion from a reader, this article is being included as the first of a series under the same heading. They will cover the entire field of grades and uses of the lumber which Potlatch Forests manufacture. We are herein acknowledging the source of our material to be almost entirely printed matter of the Western Pine Association, and at the same time expressing our thanks for such a valuable suggestion on the part of one of our readers.

The following descriptions of grades are based on the standard rules of the Western Pine Association, which were first adopted February 2, 1910. They are a modification of the Northern Pine Manufacturers Association rules under which the manufacturers belonging to this association were grading lumber prior to the adoption of western rules. The Northern Pine rules were formulated in 1894. The western standards of grades and sizes have been revised slightly from time to time to meet the demands of changing conditions but are the only rules under which the manufacturers of Idaho White Pine grade this lumber.

The highest grade of Idaho White Pine, Supreme (B Select and Better), will be the first grade to be described and future articles will follow on down through to the lowest grade.

Supreme Idaho White Pine is the highest recognized grade of this wood. It is practically a perfect grade and only the eye of the experienced grader is able to detect the minor defects that are found in occasional pieces. These latter pieces, which will range from 4 to 12 inches in width ordinarily, will run to the low end of the grade, and may show a small amount of very light stain, or one piece may contain one or two small pin knots, while another may have a small amount of very light localized pitch or tiny season checks that are hardly visible to the eye. Although lumber is graded from the better side, even the backs of the pieces in Supreme grade must be extremely high quality. To all intents and purposes this grade is clear.

It is manufactured regularly in 4/4, 5/4, and 6/4 thicknesses, and in certain instances 8/4 to 16/4 may be cut. The 4/4—4 in. to 12 in. is usually

shipped in specified widths and lengths and the wider stock is 13 in. and wider, although the latter may be ordered at 14 in., 16 in., 18 in. or wider. In shipping this grade, an order calling for mixed widths and lengths will contain mostly 8 to 16 ft. with a small proportion shorter or longer than these lengths. Anything thicker than 4/4 is generally shipped in mixed widths and lengths with a relatively small proportion of short lengths and narrow widths.

Supreme Idaho White Pine is suitable for finishing work of the very highest class, including exterior and interior trim, siding paneling, enameled work, and the like, for houses of the more expensive type. It is also used for special industrial uses where practically clear lumber in fairly large pieces is desired.

Rutledge Rejects

Doctor (to his daughter): "Did you tell the young man that I think he's no good?"

Daughter: "Yes, but it didn't phase him. He said it wasn't the first wrong diagnosis you had made."

This is an age of youth, but it's nice to have the Old Man around for backing.

"Did you mark that place where the fishing was so good?"

"Yes, I put an X on the side of the boat."



"That's silly. What if we should get another boat?"

Help a man out of trouble and he will not forget you when he gets in trouble again.

Every minute that you are angry you lose 60 seconds of happiness.

No man is as perfect as he thinks his neighbor ought to be.

"I called to make an appointment with the dentist."

"He's out just now."

"Ah! When do you expect him to be out again?"

Rutledge Unit News Items

The Rutledge Unit has completed remodeling the unloading stock rig for the unloading of rough lumber. The unloading rig now enables the men to work under cover and it is much safer and stronger. It is much more efficient in the unloading of lumber stocks transferred to Coeur d'Alene.

Excavation has started on a new Briquette plant at the Rutledge Unit and it is hoped that they will be able to get into production by July 1.

Mr. C. J. McGough, former employee of the Edward Rutledge Timber Company and now in the St. Paul office of the F. Weyerhaeuser Co., was in Coeur d'Alene on April 22 and 23. The St. Paul office evidently has not taken away any of his keen wit. Everyone in the Rutledge Unit office got out their old joke book and matched him story for story, and if you haven't heard his "Palm Tree" story we suggest you have him tell it to you when the ladies aren't present.

J. L. Frisch, Superintendent of Manufacture for the Company, made an inspection trip to the Rutledge plant on May 17 and 18.

Deacon Johnson surprised the church congregation at an entertainment by making the following announcement:

"The next piece on the program will be a song by Miss Tabitha Tompkins entitled, 'Put Me in My Little Bed,' accompanied by the minister."

An Important Disease of White Pine

With the season here when the "Blister Rusters" are heading into the brush, the Family Tree is devoting a little space to the description of what is perhaps the most serious tree disease in this country and surely the greatest menace to the white pines of the United States.

White Pine Blister Rust was first discovered in the United States in 1906 in New York, and, like a lot of other plant diseases and parasites, is strongly believed to have come from the Asiatic countries on pine seedlings. In 1921, it was discovered in the Western part of British Columbia and in the State of Washington and since that time has spread over a considerable portion of the western pine region.

On pines, the infection enters through the needles and the first symptoms appear as yellow spots. The infection spreads to the stems and appears as a slight swelling due to the thickening of the bark. From 6 to 9 months after the infection, small blisters may appear from which exudes a sweet, yellowish, sticky fluid. This stage is termed the pycnial stage and the yellowish fluid contains the pycniospores. Still later, 2 to 3 years after infection, the disease enters another stage in which large yellowish blisters form on the surface of the canker which later break open and allow the escape of a second type of spore. This stage is called the aecial stage and the spores, aeciospores. Later yet, all signs of the disease may disappear, leaving only the slightly roughened and cracked bark over the surface of the swollen cankers. The disease continues to spread, however, in the bark of the tree until the trunk or branch is girdled, resulting in the death of that member.

The above is its history in the pine. The currant is the home of this fungus disease during another portion of its life. Two stages occur in the currant as in the pine and similarly produce two types of spores.

The life history of the disease is then briefly as follows:

1. Infection occurs in the pine and results in the production, first, of pycniospores.

2. The pine infection develops further and aeciospores are produced. These are carried to the currant by

wind or on insects or nursery stock to start stage 3.

3. This is the first stage on the currant and it results finally in the production of urediniospores which infect other currant leaves.

4. Infection of other currant leaves by urediniospores results in the production of teliospores, which in a process all their own, produce basidiospores. These basidiospores then are carried by the wind, insects, etc., to a pine and the life cycle starts all over again.

The fact that this disease spends part of its life on another plant, or alternate host, allows of the control methods which are used. Currants and gooseberry bushes serve as these alternate hosts and the removal of these plants from white pine stands plus care that the disease is not brought in, will result in the control of the disease.

An interesting fact concerning infection by this disease is that from the pine to the currant, the spores may be carried and infect the currant miles away from the pine which furnished the spore, while from the currant to the pine, the distance seems to be limited to a few hundred yards. This is due to the fact that the latter spores are very short lived and cannot stand the long transportation like the other spore forms.

This rather confusing assortment of spores perhaps could be cleared up by attempting a plain English definition of the word. The spore of a fungus corresponds, in its purpose at least, to the seed of a higher form of plant. It is produced by the fungus to serve as a means of reproducing the fungus and under the right conditions will "germinate" and grow. In the Blister Rust, several spore stages are needed before the first "plant" form is reached again, while, in the seeds of plants, the original plant is reproduced from one seed.

This short description of the life history of the Blister Rust leaves a lot to be told but will give a general idea of just what a complex disease it is and also of what an enormous amount of investigation has been given to it.

RILED RILEY

Beneath this stone lies Murphy,
They buried him today;
He lived the life of Riley,
While Riley was away.

Automobile Loans

During the past two years the Potlatch State Bank, Potlatch, Idaho, has been offering financial arrangements to employees of Potlatch Forests, Inc., for the purchase of automobiles. These loans are being made for the purchase of new cars and late model used cars.

The requirements for a loan consist of a down payment of one-third the purchase price of the car and the purchaser must be steadily employed. Automobile insurance covering the car for Fire, Theft and Collision for the term of the loan, is also required.

These loans are made on the monthly installment basis over a period of not to exceed eighteen months. The automobile is pledged as security for the amount of the note covering the actual amount of money received by the borrower plus cost of insurance. Interest at the rate of eight per cent per annum (true interest) is charged on deferred payments and the interest is payable at the maturity of the note. Interest is only charged for the actual amount of the loan for the actual time the money remains unpaid, or, in other words, interest ceases on each monthly payment on the day the payment is made.

As an inducement for thrift, the bank allows the borrowers to make additional payments of any amount at any time, without penalty, and interest on such additional payments cease immediately. No matter whether the note runs to maturity or is paid in full before, the only charge to the borrower would be interest on the note for the time the money has been borrowed. No other financing charges are added.

Potlatch Woods Notes

Things are still pretty damp in the Potlatch woods and predictions are that it will be the first of the month before work really opens up in earnest.

Camps 31 and 32 are both opened up, however, with about 200 men in each. Axel and Melker are in charge.

Ratliff at No. 33 is being held up on his truck logging operation because of the wet weather.

Three loading machines are sending logs to the Potlatch mill at the present time.

William Helmer, Cruiser

A. A. SEGERSTEN

Shortly before the close of the Civil War, or, to be exact, on August 18, 1863, there was born in a small village in the Province of Quebec, Canada, a baby boy who was destined to become one of the greatest timber cruisers of our time. This boy, William Helmer, early in his teens, developed a deep affection for the white pine timber which covered the hills of his native province, and, after receiving his early schooling, branched out as a "land looker," or timber cruiser.

Sensing the development in the lumber industry soon to take place in the Lake States, William Helmer moved to Stillwater, Minnesota, in 1882 and became associated with the operations of C. N. Nelson, one of the largest white pine operators of the early days in Minnesota. Over a period of two decades as cruiser for the Nelson interests, Helmer developed the uncanny instinct for accurate timber estimating which remains with him to this day.

Early in 1901 William Deary, who had been selected by Wisconsin and Minnesota interests to consolidate a large operating block of white pine timber in Northern Idaho, picked William Helmer to accompany him. They arrived in Idaho May 1, 1901, and immediately started the cruising and purchasing of the huge timber block which was to become the operating unit of the Potlatch Lumber Company. In the early days of timber exploration very few trails and roads existed in Northern Idaho and Helmer frequently was out for months at a stretch with his compassman, packing their meagre outfit on their backs over uncharted areas of timber land, sleeping wherever darkness overtook them. In this manner, the huge stand of Idaho White Pine was selected for the operations of the Potlatch Lumber Company, and several million dollars were invested in timber on the judgment and integrity of one man—William Helmer.

After the mill was constructed at Potlatch in 1905 and operations were well under way, Helmer was selected to lay out the logging spurs and locate the camp sites, in addition to his duties as cruiser. This work kept him occupied up to 1931, when, after the merger, he was relieved of some of his duties and now is called on only to supervise the estimating of timber to



BILL HELMER

be purchased by the company. "Bill," as he is affectionately known to all members of the lumber fraternity in Northern Idaho, still carries on; his pace is firm and steady; his eyes are keen to spot a "conk" or blemish on a white pine, and the same gentle spirit pervades the man, whether he is out in the timber, in camp, or at his ease in the home of a friend. Those of us who have been intimately associated with "Bill" over a period of years have learned to love him for his modesty, his honesty, and his deep rooted loyalty to his Company and his many friends. Truly, the "Pines of the West" must impart some of their majestic and sterling qualities to produce men of such splendid character as William Helmer.

THE SPINSTER'S PRAYER

"Now I lay me down to sleep,
damn it!"

Wood Briquettes, Inc., Leases Machines At Scotia

Two Pres-to-logs machines have been leased recently by Wood Briquettes, Inc., to the Pacific Lumber Co., and will be installed in a new plant being built at Scotia, to replace the Pres-to-logs plant which was destroyed by fire late in 1935.

Increased demand for Pres-to-logs in California, as well as insistent demand for the product from users in the area adjacent to Scotia, have influenced the Pacific Lumber Company in their decision to rebuild the Pres-to-logs plant.

The northwestern counties in California have been assigned to the Pacific Lumber Co., as an exclusive territory for the sale of Pres-to-logs and Tom Farris, who formerly worked in the Lewiston Pres-to-logs plant, will be in charge of manufacture and will handle sales of Pres-to-logs in this local territory. Tom has had considerable sales experience since leaving Lewiston, as he has been employed by Wood Briquettes, Inc., the past two winters as sales representative for Pres-to-logs in San Francisco.

Turbo-Generator Rewound At Potlatch

Work has been completed on the Westinghouse Turbo Unit now installed in the Power Plant at Potlatch. This work was done by a crew from the Westinghouse Manufacturing Company at Seattle, Washington, with A. J. Sandler in charge.

The former rating of the generator was 1000 K.V.A. and the rewinding operation raised its rating to 1250 K.V.A. the rewinding changed the unit from 600 volts to 2400 volts, and in doing this it was necessary to remove all the windings and magnetizing iron in the stationary winding. A new core, of the open slot type, was built up of 7,800 pieces of iron with a total weight of 4 tons. One ton of copper was used in the coils themselves.

A fact to which the Westinghouse people point with some pride is an increase in generator efficiency of 2% which they have accomplished. In a unit of this size, this efficiency increase is extremely valuable.