

Two Long-Time Employees Retire

Boie and Haeg Honored at Foremen's Party



W. R. (Bill) Boie



Clarence Haeg

Bill began his 36 years of service on August 1, 1926, as assistant woods auditor of the Clearwater Timber Company, one of three companies which merged in 1931 to form Potlatch Forests, Inc. Once every two weeks he would visit each of five or six camps, including one small sawmill operation that was cutting lumber for use by other camps and for construction of flumes to transport logs to the river for the log drive.

These bi-weekly trips around the camp circuit required about one week and were made by any means available, including walking and horseback. Tote wagons hauling supplies to the camp commissaries in the winter often saved walking part of the way.

Bill recalls one return trip to his Pierce, Idaho, office involving about \$1,000 of company commissary receipts and a skittish saddle horse. While giving his horse a rest after a tough climb, some animal nearby spooked the horse, which proceeded to head down the trail without a rider. Having visions of looking for \$1,000 in silver and small bills scattered in the brush from a bouncing sack attached to the saddle horn, Bill took "every short cut I knew" in an effort to catch his horse. Dire thoughts of reprisal vanished when he finally caught the runaway, saw the money sack still intact and found he was too exhausted to do more than hold onto the still excited horse.

In the spring of 1928 Bill was transferred to the accounting department at the Clearwater Timber Company's Lewiston office and two years later was placed in charge of invoicing within that department. He was named manager of the box and crating department in 1932, a position he held for four years. Promotion to assistant sales manager of lumber products and sales manager of the box, crating and cut-up department took place in 1936.

Bill was named assistant to the vice president of Wood Briquettes, Inc. and new products in 1955 and three years later was named manager of Wood Briquettes, Inc. and manager of By-Products Procurement, positions he held until retirement.

Mr. and Mrs. Boie will continue to make their home in Lewiston but their plans include traveling throughout the continental United States. Gardening, fishing and pinocle playing kept Bill busy until they began their travels in the fall.

Clarence joined Potlatch Forests, Inc., in 1935 as a camp clerk, working in logging camps on both the Clearwater and Potlatch Units. He was named assistant woods auditor in 1940 and for a short time served as auditor before accepting the assignment of woods hiring agent in 1941.

Finding competent woods personnel during war years was often quite difficult and sometimes downright frustrating. Trips to Spokane, Washington, were often necessary to obtain men who were willing to work in the somewhat isolated logging camps. Hiring women to help in the cookhouse also proved to be difficult at times. Clarence recalls one instance when he was hard pressed to keep the necessary number in the different camps and while in Spokane on one hiring trip, was very pleased to find two ladies who promised to sign on for such work. However, the next morning when both were to leave for the camp he was dismayed to learn that one had decided overnight to get married and was no longer interested in the job.

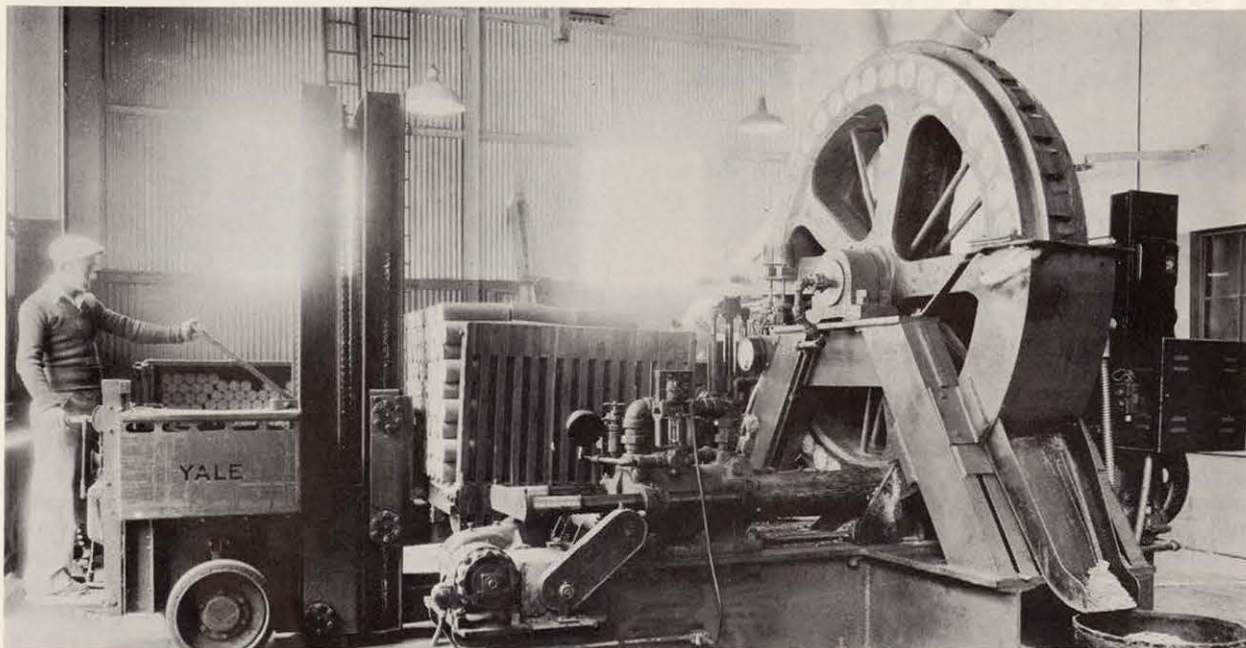
PFI supervisory personnel had been concerned for some time about the sizeable cost of operating company cookhouses and in 1948 Clarence was asked to conduct a cost study to determine what could be done to reduce this expense. Considerable savings resulted from supply purchasing procedures and operating standards established and based on findings of the study.

Clarence was named woods safety director in 1953 and served in that capacity until 1959 when he was named records and research specialist, a position he held until his retirement in July of this year.

One of the gifts presented to Clarence at the retirement party was a portable, manually operated calculator he had used for many years. Numerous and repeated offers of replacement with a more modern machine were quietly but firmly declined by Clarence during those years. He claimed the old calculator served him well and filled the needs of his work as well as any machine could. It was obvious to friends in attendance when the gift was presented that a more appropriate or more appreciated one could not have been found.

It is also apparent that Clarence enjoys his retirement. He and Mrs. Haeg plan a trip south this winter, but in the meantime, yardwork around their Lewiston home and bowling several times each week have kept him busy.

A Backward Glance . . .



Thirty-three years ago Mr. Robert Bowling, chief engineer of the Clearwater Timber Company, was assigned the task of developing a machine to compress wood shavings into a solid fuel. From this assignment came Pres-to-logs in 1930.

This project was prompted by the difficult problem of disposal of dry shavings from the planer mill. Burning these shavings in waste burners and boiler furnaces was expensive because they generated intense heat which damaged fire brick and buckled steel plates within a short time.

In 1930 production of a compressed fuel was begun on a small scale. Bowling's first machine manufactured a "log" 2½ inches in diameter by 8 inches long. This was soon changed to a log 4½ inches x 8 inches and in 1932, changed again to 4½ inches x 12½ inches, the present size of Pres-to-logs. Through continued research and experimental efforts Bowling discovered that by passing the shavings through a hammer mill which reduced them to a consistency of coarse flour and then subjecting this material to a pressure of about 10 tons per square inch, which also generated heat, a solid fuel could be produced without requiring additives of any kind. Natural resins in wood and the compression of wood cells held the Pres-to-log together after it left the machine.

On May 10, 1933, Wood Briquettes, Inc., was incorporated to manufacture and sell this product, covered by U. S. Patent Number 2,222,250, and to lease machines to other companies interested in greater utilization of their raw materials. Each machine is capable of producing approximately one million logs a year.

The first machine was leased that summer to the Oregon Lumber Company at Baker, Ore-

gon. Later that fall, six machines were leased to the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company at Longview, Washington.

Currently there are 88 operational Pres-to-log machines in the United States, 17 of which are in PFI plants. Washington State leads with 30, followed by Oregon with 10 and California and Montana with 9 each. Twenty-one machines are in Canada, British Columbia leading with 18.

General Box Company, Retreat, South Africa, ordered the first machine for export in 1937. Since then, one more has gone to South Africa, one to Uruguay, two to Peru and one to Yugoslavia, the most recent shipment being a single machine to Torre Pelice, Italy, in 1960.

Pres-to-log fuel has also been exported. One of the most noteworthy shipments involved 64 tons for use during "Operation Deepfreeze," a scientific expedition to the Antarctic during the 1957 International Geophysical Year.

Bowling also developed a machine to produce a related product. Pres-to-log stoker fuel was test marketed in 1939, and by 1942 a good demand had developed for this product. Currently there are 17 stoker fuel machines in the United States and Canada. Two have been exported, one each to the British West Indies and Tokyo, Japan.

Development of the sister products, Pres-to-logs and Pres-to-log stoker fuel, was the first significant step to more complete utilization of sawmill wastes in the lumbering industry. It was a major break-through in a problem faced by all lumber companies for many years, and has been followed by other developments leading to a complete solution of the waste utilization problem at Potlatch Forests, Inc., and other companies.