

Forest Supervisor Nelson Reports On Lumber Industry Observations On Trip East

Back from a 10,000-mile jaunt around the country, M. M. Nelson, supervisor of the Umpqua National forest, told an interviewer today of his visits to the Forest Products laboratory at Madison, Wis., and to an experimental forest in Arkansas, which made his vacation a "postman's holiday."

Nelson motored with his father, M. O. Nelson, of San Fernando, Calif., across the northern states to Minnesota and Wisconsin, through Michigan and southern Ontario, to New York. After a side trip through New England, they returned by way of the South to the West Coast.

What impressed the Roseburg forester were his visits to the U. S. Forest Products laboratory at Madison, where research is being given in every department to the utilization of cull Douglas fir logs, and to Crossett, Ark., where the Forest service is teaching conservation lessons in the southern pine belt.

Cull Douglas fir logs are those that have been attacked by fungus growths, Nelson explained. Every department in the Madison laboratory is working on research problems with the cull Douglas fir wood, and is perfecting products from these trees which may be utilized by the lumber industry.

Among the experimental products produced from cull Douglas fir are paper, apple boxes, and fibre boards. The pathology department is working on tests to determine the degree of decay in wood. Paint preservatives are being developed.

One researcher at the Madison laboratory, Nelson said, built his personal home entirely of short pieces of lumber, to demonstrate that it is possible to build with short lengths salvaged from cull logs.

Since he could not obtain the cull logs in Wisconsin, he purchased sound lumber and cut-up the boards into short lengths. Al-

though that increased the cost of his house, it demonstrated that short lengths from cull logs can be used in building Nelson said.

Research Extended Here
In line with this research, a study has been started by the Forest service in cooperation with the Fir Manufacturing company at Myrtle Creek, to determine sizes and quality of trees suitable for manufacture of veneer. Also cooperating are the Columbia River Log Sealing bureau and the Northwest Forest Experiment station at Portland.

A comparative study will be made of Douglas fir in the Puget Sound region, Nelson said. It is hoped that foresters will obtain a better understanding of the quality of veneer, by studying the logs from which veneer is produced.

Crossett, Ark., where Nelson visited briefly, is a prosperous, growing city with smart shops and new businesses coming in. Ten years ago it was a company-owned town, with one store where employees of the Crossett Lumber company had to spend their company-issued script.

The company had started in the pine belt in 1900, Nelson explained. It had not planned to operate there permanently. About 10 years ago the company gave to the government a tract large enough for an experimental forest. Applying the lessons taught by the government to its own lands, the company is now utilizing its forests to a very high degree.

In addition to its sawmill, the company is producing 300 tons of pulp a day and is producing charcoal and other by-products from its chemical plant. Twenty-one graduate foresters are employed by the company to manage its forest lands. The town has a new post office, high school churches, and scores of well-kept homes.

Melson and his father were impressed by the general prosperity of the nation. R. E. A. farm electrification projects are being extended throughout the country. New buildings are being constructed in rural and urban areas. The country seemed to be developing more than a decade ago, when the elder Nelson made a similar trip.

Broken Romance Leads To Suicide
CHAMPAIGN, Ill., Nov. 22—(UP)—A broken romance was listed by authorities as the motive for the suicide of a University of Illinois student.

The body of the youth, James Robert Edwards, 21, of Champaign, was found yesterday in a cemetery near the campus where authorities said he had shot and killed himself. A .32 caliber pistol was near his body. He had been shot through the heart.

Coroner Don Wikoff said Jayne Dutler, a student at Illinois Normal university in nearby Bloomington, told him she had broken her engagement with Edwards during her visit at the university homecoming celebration in Champaign over the weekend. Wikoff said Miss Dutler told him when Edwards put her on a bus to return to Bloomington Sunday night he had threatened to kill himself. Miss Dutler telephoned Edwards' parents in Champaign when she arrived in Bloomington and told them what he had said. They notified university police who found the youth's body.

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