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CHARLES V. STANTON, Editor and Manager

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PLYWOOD JUBILEE

Charles V. Stanton

Fifty years ago the first plywood panel was manufactured in Portland. That first panel was enshrined in a permanent memorial last Sunday as the Western Fir Plywood Manufacturers staged their Golden Jubilee celebration.

Plywood created a great sensation when it was placed on exhibit at the spectacular forestry building erected for the Lewis and Clark World's Fair in Portland a half century ago.

As the thousands of spectators strolled through the huge log building erected in Portland to exemplify Oregon's timber resource, many must have had visions of a new industry resulting from the invention. Others probably looked skeptically upon the new product, sneeringly asking who would be dumb enough to use that stuff when good stout boards were available.

But we doubt if even the most optimistic spectators encompassed in their vision the actual potential of the boring industry.

Interestingly, several men, who were employed in the Portland Manufacturing Company plant when the first panel was produced, were present for last Sunday's colorful dedication ceremony. Doubtless their minds recalled many events in the march of plywood across the industrial field of the Pacific Northwest.

Golden Jubilee Celebrated

The 50th anniversary of plywood gave rise to a celebration reportedly attended over the weekend by thousands of persons including plywood manufacturers, industry suppliers, plywood jobbers and visitors. The three-day celebration was marked by many educational and entertaining events. But serving as a theme throughout all programs was the remarkable progress achieved in so few years.

Oregon's great forestry building, built with Douglas fir logs, was one of the outstanding attractions of the 1905 fair. Several years ago, when it became necessary either to repair the aging building or raze it, public opinion forced renovation. It now stands as a memorial to the forest industry.

The plywood panel, when first entered by the Portland Manufacturing Company, drew great interest as a new product and received more inquiries than any other exhibit. In fact, inquiries developed enough orders that the company began commercial production of plywood in the fall of 1905, just as the fair drew to a close.

The panel was preserved. When it began to show deterioration about three years ago, the Douglas Fir Plywood Association financed complete refinishing. It is now mounted in a lighted memorial as a permanent exhibit of the start of an industry that has assumed gigantic proportions.

Since the first panel was laboriously produced, the industry has manufactured more than 40 billion feet of plywood. Plywood production now is worth approximately \$500 million annually.

New Uses And New Products

The demand for Douglas fir plywood mounts steadily. Each day finds new uses for this handy product. The build-it-yourself fad which has hit the country in recent years would not have reached its present impetus without the stimulation afforded by plywood.

Many improvements have been made to the product since that first panel was originated. One of the great advances followed discovery of a waterproof adhesive. This adhesive made possible the construction of the plywood boats which played an exciting part in the last World War. It also permitted use of plywood for outdoor construction.

Combinations of plywood panels with plastic facings have recently been introduced. Bonding of plywood with metal was achieved a number of years ago. More recently there has been success with plywood facing on cores made of pulp, thus permitting utilization of waste material.

Plywood has had much competition in recent years from various types of chipboard, hardboard and other products, but its production charts mount steadily upward. Pessimists many years ago decided the saturation point had been reached in plywood production, yet the demand maintains as mill after mill is installed to add to the total output.

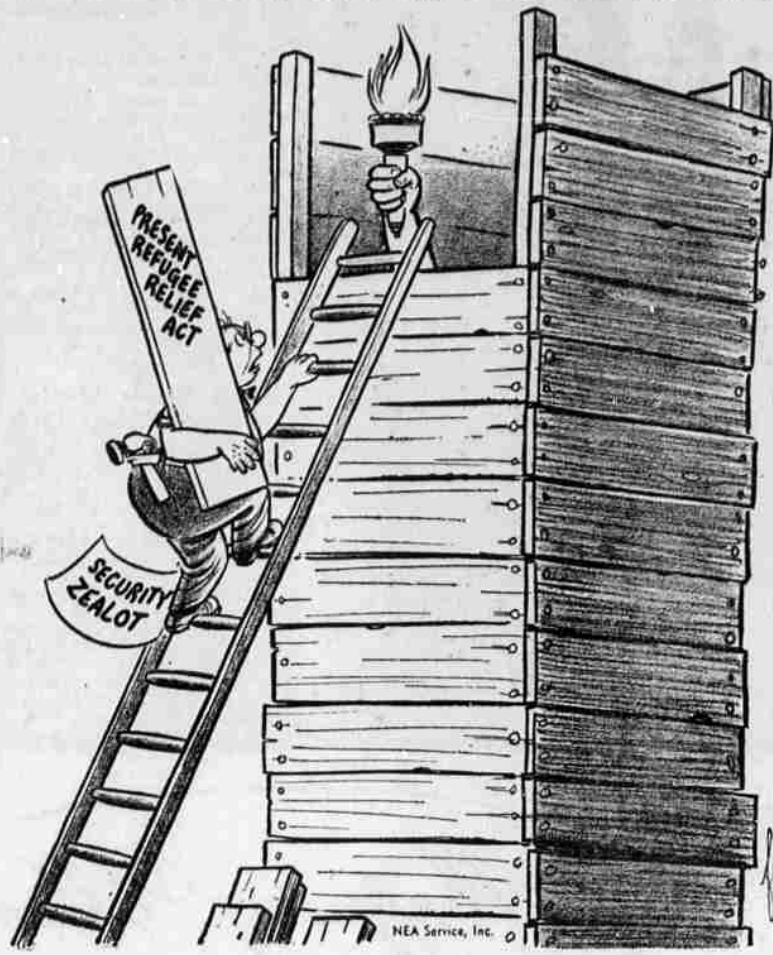
The plywood industry has good reason to celebrate its 50th anniversary. Its contribution to U.S. economy should have unanimous public appreciation.



—NEA Telephone

ADENAUER WANTS SOLIDARITY—President Eisenhower (left) and West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer shake hands following their meeting at the White House. In center are James B. Conant, U. S. ambassador to Germany (left), and Secy. of State John Foster Dulles. Adenauer pressed for a common Western lineup in the forthcoming Big Four "summit" talks with the Soviets. He also urged a bold disarmament plan to ease the cold war and help unify Germany.

'Can't Sleep With That Light Burning All the Time



Peter Edson

WASHINGTON — (NEA) — In spite of all the objections, American foreign aid programs roll on year after year.

Last year Congress ordered the Foreign Operations Administration liquidated as of June 30. But the U.S. Senate has now approved continuation of this spending under a new International Cooperation Administration in the State Department.

New funds of nearly three and a half billion dollars are authorized for next year. This is 800 million dollars more than was appropriated last year. It is some 17 million dollars more—for technical assistance—than Mr. Eisenhower recommended to Congress.

The battle now moves over to the House of Representatives, where the usual opposition to foreign aid is expected.

It will be maintained that any country having trade with Iron Curtain countries should not get one nickel of aid so long as any Americans are held prisoner by Chinese Communists.

FIGURES WILL BE CITED that the foreign aid programs have eight billion dollars worth of carry-over funds and that therefore no new appropriations are necessary.

It will be patriotically declared that no American economic aid should be given to build up the industrialization of foreign countries so that they will become competitors.

These principal arguments will be backed up by recommendations made in the latest task force report from Ex-President Herbert Hoover's Commission on government reorganization.

The Hoover report recommends savings of 300 million dollars on nonmilitary foreign aid for the coming fiscal year. This is a little over 20 per cent of the 1.7 billion dollars economic half of the foreign aid budget.

It is noteworthy that the Hoover task force recommends no cut

all in the military aid budget of 1.7 billion dollars.

Also, it does not recommend that the economic aid program be completely discontinued. It merely wants the program reorganized.

GENERAL MARSHAL, as Secretary of State, thought foreign aid should be administered by his department. Congress wouldn't have it that way and set up an independent operation.

So, after seven years of kicking the dog around under various names—ECA, MSA, and FOA—the Eisenhower administration and the Hoover Commission recommend that the business be put back in the State Department kennel, to complete the walk around the block.

Secretary of State John Foster Dulles apparently isn't too keen to have this responsibility thrust upon him. John B. Hollister, designated as the new administrator of the program, hasn't revealed what his ideas on the subject are to be.

Anyway, it's their pup now. And what all this administrative juggling has accomplished is impossible to determine.

Friends of the foreign aid program maintain that it would have been far better to set a firm policy and then stick to it. This would have created more confidence in American intentions among the countries being helped. It would also cause more consternation among potential enemies.

FOR AS THE HOOVER TASK FORCE report declares, and as the majorities in Congress always conclude after they've held all the hearings, raised all the objections and had them beaten down: . . .

we believe that the government of the United States must continue economic assistance among certain free countries of the world in order to secure the maximum military security for ourselves and to take part in the advance of the living standard in the free world."

Bruce Blossat

The current crop of reports from the revised Hoover Commission has not aroused the same general admiration that greeted the original recommendations several years ago. But the newest report urging expansion of research and development is clearly commendable.

The commission believes the federal government is not spending enough money on either civilian or military research programs. It described as "dangerous and false" economy any approach which would hold appropriations for these purposes to minimum levels.

Perhaps the commission's most stout charge is that U.S. armed services lack daring and imagination in the development of radical new weapons.

This is not the first time such a charge has been made. The record of World War II and after contains many examples of superior technical advances by other nations. The United States either matched these very late in the game, or is still behind.

The evidence suggests that some of the gains we have managed have come almost in spite of the Pentagon, rather than because of it.

It is said to be common knowledge among scientists who work with the military that only steady prodding by researchers and others outside normal channels produced some of our most exciting developments. Those in positions of control too often stood as a roadblock to progress.

Apparently conservative attitudes are partly to blame, but so also are habits of complacency in appraising what other countries are doing. On the basis of the record, one finds it difficult to

Ohio U. Prexy Named To U. N. Council Post

WASHINGTON — The White House announced Monday President Eisenhower has named John C. Baker, president of Ohio University, to be this country's permanent representative on the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Baker's name was sent to the Senate for confirmation. He was nominated to succeed Preston Hotchkiss of Los Angeles, who resigned last week.

In The Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

parks advisory committee and the highway interim committee are represented on this tour.

Oregon has approximately 100 state parks, of which some 40 are located on Highway 301, the Oregon Coast highway. These two score parks on the scenic Coast highway are undoubtedly a tremendous asset. They range all the way from the magnificent park at Coos Bay — donated by the Simpson estate and maintained by the state — and the spectacular Sam Boardman state park embracing some 40 miles of fabulously beautiful coastline at the states southern border down to little waysides where the traveler may pull out to the side of the road for a brief rest.

They add immensely to the coast highway's value as a tourist attraction. They include parks recently developed for overnight camping.

These parks where overnight parking is permitted have caretakers. Their accommodations include cooking facilities, shower baths with hot and cold water and toilet facilities. All of these improvements are new and these are the state's current for a summer night camping in Oregon's state parks.

Some of these overnight parks are equipped with a new and durable type of electric stoves, with slot attachments providing a half price current for a stove. Others have outdoor open stoves, with fuel provided. It is an odd fact that these open stoves fueled by firewood appear to be more popular than the fancy electric stoves — which, by the way, are housed in open sheds where people leave their modern homes a day take to the great outdoors, they seem to prefer to do their cooking over an open fire.

C. H. Armstrong, state parks superintendent, reports that the change for the use of these overnight camping facilities is a little more than pays the cost of the attendants at the camping parks.

How have these parks been acquired?

The answer is both by gift and by purchase. Many of them have been given to the state by public-spirited citizens. Most of them have been purchased.

What have they cost? The outlay so far (for land) has been about ten million dollars. Superintendent Armstrong estimates that if purchased NOW the land would cost about 2 million dollars. Fortunately, Oregon began the job of acquiring its state parks early enough to get in ahead of the big increase in land values.

What is their upkeep cost? The state highway department is spending presently on state parks about a million dollars a year. This includes both upkeep and acquisition of new areas from time to time, as attractive sites become available.

The money comes out of gasoline taxes. The use of gas tax money is justified under the theory that the state parks are an adjunct of the state system of highways, maintained for the pleasure and convenience of the users of the roads—who are chiefly automobile owners and users.

That brings us to the question raised in the legislature last winter. Shall we leave administration of our Oregon state parks in the hands of the highway department, where it has been since the state parks system was created?

Or shall we take it out of the hands of the highway commission and turn it over to a new and independent state parks commission?

That is the problem that will be studied for the next two years by the new parks advisory committee and by the legislative highway interim committee.

The answer will be provided by the 1957 Oregon legislature, which will hear the reports of both bodies.

Freed Austrians Tell Of Red-Held Yankee Prisoners

WIENER NEUSTADT, Austria, (AP) — A group of 184 Austrian war prisoners and civilian internees released by the Soviet Union arrived here Monday.

The returnees said they had met several American, British and French prisoners in Russian camps along with several thousand Germans.

They said that while at Camp Alexandrovsk, in Siberia, they met an American whose name they gave variously as Mike Finegag or Murray Feingersch of Brooklyn a man in his 30s. They said he had been beaten to such an extent that he appeared mentally unbalanced.

The American, they reported, told them he had been serving with U.S. forces in Germany and

had been arrested by the Czechs after inadvertently crossing the German Czech border in 1949. He said the Czechs handed him over to Soviet occupation forces in Austria and he had been sentenced to 25 years in jail.

They said they also met a soldier named Eisenhower, but they didn't know whether he was related to the U.S. President or any details about him.

Another American they identified as Charley Brown (hometime unknown) died in a Ural camp in 1952, the prisoners said. They said he had been arrested in Romania at the end of the war.

The newly freed Austrians said they believed Brown was a U.S. diplomat. Some reported Capt. Fabian was from Chicago.

"U.S." Captain Reported

The prisoners also reported that while in a camp at the Mongolian border, they met an American Army captain identified as Jimmy Fabian (Hometime unknown) who said he had been arrested in 1948. In Camp Vladimir near Moscow, the prisoners reported meeting two

American soldiers who fled from Japanese POW camps during World War II but fell into Russian hands. They were unable to recall the names or hometowns of the pair.

They recalled meeting a U.S. Air Force Captain named Hopkins at the Russian camp Verche Uralsk but they did not know any details about him.

In a Siberian camp they met an American named Schwab who said he had served with U.S. counter-intelligence in Austria.

(In Washington, the State Department said it had no record of a Charley Brown nor that the Russians had arrested any U. S. diplomat in Romania.)

I.O.O.F.

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