

The News-Review

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LUMBER FUTURE BRIGHTENS

By N. Floyd McGowan, President
National Lumber Manufacturers Assn.

Lumber production is showing signs of recovering from the abnormal lows of recent months. Much of this is traceable to growing indications that the nation is on the verge of a new surge in home building.

While lumber output during the first three months of 1958 — 7,311,000,000 board feet — was down an estimated 10 per cent from the year-ago level, figures for the second quarter are expected to show a somewhat smaller percentage of decline.

The biggest months for lumber output — June, July, August and September — are yet to come. Conceivably, production during the second half of 1958 could boost this year's total output to the point where it equals — or even exceeds by 2 or 3 per cent — the 1957 level of 33,391,000,000.

Much, of course, depends on general economic conditions. Regardless of what the federal government does to stimulate home building, our country's general business climate will have a marked influence on housing demand during the succeeding months of 1958.

At the same time, a strong showing in home building could be a key factor in helping the country to recover from its present economic downturn.

It is interesting to note that lumber production during the first quarter of this year has been only a shade below output in the same months of 1957. As home building moved into high gear during the middle and closing months of 1957 — and went on to establish a new all-time record of nearly 1.4 million units for the entire year — lumber production likewise rallied to a postwar peak of 38,902,000,000 board feet.

Bottom Perhaps Reached

Many manufacturers believe the lumber market has hit its present bottom and that from here on out the only way is up. I am one inclined to share the view that our industry is on the upswing. Here are some of the circumstances that support that view:

1. In many parts of the country, poor weather has been responsible for curtailing lumber output during recent weeks. Sunshine and dry weather could do much to change the picture in these areas.

2. Lumber inventories at the mill have leveled off in recent months, so the industry is in a much better position now to feel the full salutary effects of a pickup in new business.

3. For the industry as a whole, production has been cut to the point where it is now about equal to shipments. This should head off any new build-up of unwieldy stocks.

4. A sample survey of 480 mills shows new orders for the first 19 weeks of 1958 to be running about 4 per cent above production.

5. Signs of an improvement in farm income suggest a more favorable outlook for farm construction, a prime market for lumber.

6. Railroad and industrial plant demand for lumber can be expected to improve once these segments of the economy share in a general business upturn.

7. Reports from retail lumber dealers indicate a feeling of optimism for the coming months. Retail stocks, like mill inventories, have been reduced, so any appreciable increase in retail demand would be translated quickly into new business for the manufacturer.

Industry Marking Time

Actually, 1958 may turn out to be a year in which the lumber industry has had to mark time. Many manufacturers are taking advantage of the lull to seek new ways of lowering production costs, improving quality control procedures and developing better customer relations.

This will put our industry in a stronger position to take advantage of next year's opportunities — most notably, the prospect of a banner year in home building.

One of the most encouraging developments of late has been the acceptance by lumber manufacturers throughout the country of a new million-dollar national wood merchandising program developed by the National Lumber Manufacturers Assn.

This program, expected to be launched later this year, will do much to help the industry recover and retain markets lost to competitive materials.

All these factors — and others which there is not the space to mention here — suggest that the lumber industry has a right to view the coming months of 1958 with confidence and at least some degree of optimism.

IN THE DAY'S NEWS

By FRANK JENKINS

(Continued from Page 1)

fact that both Morocco and Tunisia have recently secured their independence from France.

And—

In Western Algeria—Moslem turned against Moslem today. Terrorists staged two street attacks on Moslems suspected of aiding the French.

It looks like SOMEBODY is egging the Moslems (Arabs) on to throw the French out of Algeria.

If that happens, there will be trouble. The French won't give up Algeria without a last ditch fight.

If there is a last ditch fight over Algeria, we'll have to choose sides. We'll have to decide whether to back the French or the Arabs who are rebelling against the French.

In either event, we'll be in hot water.

Who is the culprit that is doing the egging on?

As to that, the French (influenced, doubtless, by a fabulous lady named Pompadour) have a cynical wisecrack to explain such situations. They shrug their shoulders

and mutter "Cherchez la femme," which in their tongue means "look for the woman."

In this case, I think, they'd better change their wisecrack to "cherchez les Russes"—which can be roughly translated to mean that wherever there is trouble in the world LOOK FOR THE RUSSIANS IN THE WOODPILE.

The No. 1 business of the communists who run Russia is to search unceasingly throughout the world for the little flames that be taken trouble and wherever they find these little fires to pour gasoline on them.

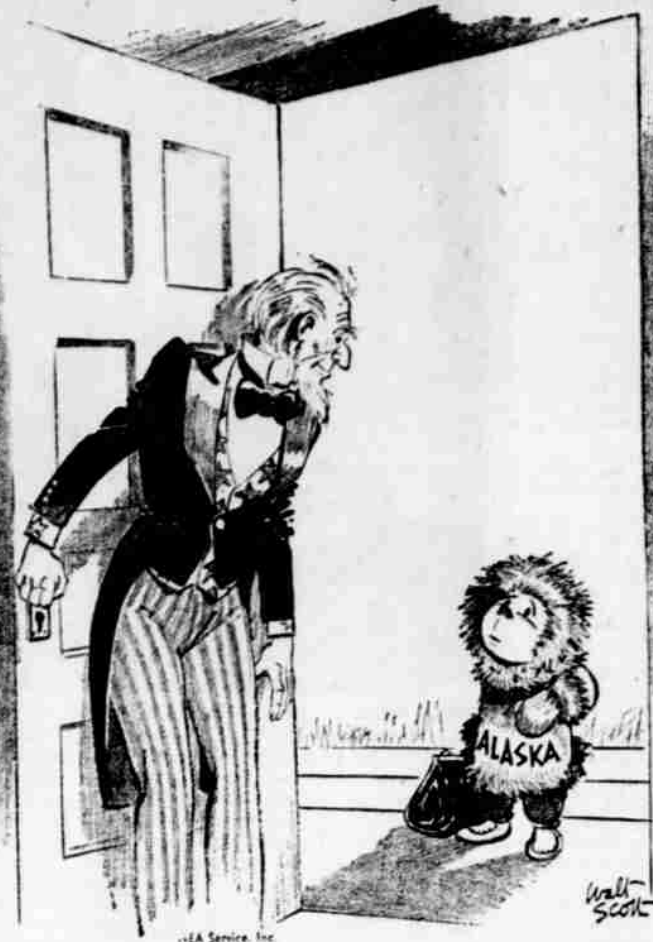
COCK-A-DOODLE-DO

ROGUE RIVER (AP)—The annual rooster crowing contest will be held here June 21. The owner of the winning bird will receive \$500.

The bird which crows the most in a specified period wins. The record is held by a Grants Pass rooster named Reetlebaum who crowed 159 times in 20 minutes to win the 1957 contest.

Last year's champion crowed only 63 times.

Come in, Sonny . . .



—Hal Boyle—

NEW YORK (AP) — Who took the glamor out of show business?

"The stars themselves," said Vivian Blaine firmly.

"They did it by letting down the bars of their privacy and inviting the world into their homes. Of course, a star has to have a home life, or his existence is pretty vacuous."

"But I doubt that show business has been enhanced by allowing the public to come behind the scenes and see what makes a star tick in every aspect of his life."

"What show business needs is a little more mystery," Miss Blaine, who provides some of the more uproarious laughs in the hit Broadway musical, "Say, Darling," also thinks many stars are getting entirely too folksy in their attire.

"Movie stars, male or female, make a big mistake in going around sloppily dressed," she remarked. "The fans look at them and ask, 'This is glamor?'"

"I don't say you have to be glittering all the time, but you certainly should be neat and well-groomed."

Viv feels the American housewife, as well as stars of stage, screen and television, could do with a bit more sprucing up.

"Women should dress up more—even if the only one who sees them during the day is the grocer," she said. "There is such a thing as self-respect and self-discipline."

"You can't let yourself go. If you let one thing go, everything can go."

No Mystery, No Idealizing

Everyone, she believes, does well to create at least some aura of mystery, and to retain some area of personal privacy.

"Show business today has become everybody's business," continued the sprightly blonde singer, frowning. "While fans are flattered to think they are in the real know, they also miss something—the chance to idolize and idealize."

—Bruce Bioassat—

WASHINGTON (NEA) — The Great Plains program is at last beginning to roll. Its purpose is to cut down the tremendous drought losses in the dust bowl and to stabilize farming in the 10 states east of the Rocky Mountains. It has taken two years to get this dramatic undertaking started.

Actually, dust bowl troubles go back 100 years. In the depression of the 1930's successive droughts brought poverty that led to the "Okie" migration of "Grapes of Wrath" fame.

In the early 1930s another dry spell made necessary multimillion-dollar disaster relief programs.

President Eisenhower sent the Great Plains plan to Congress early in 1956. The law authorizing a 10-year, 130-million-dollar program was passed that August. It took another year to work out regulations. First contracts were signed last December.

IN THE SUCCEEDING five months Department of Agriculture signed nearly 4,000 more contracts with farmers and ranchers in the area.

This work will be done on a cost-sharing basis in which the U. S. government will pay 50 to 60 per cent of costs.

Every farmer who signs up will first have an aerial survey made of his land. Then soil conservation service technicians will work out a conservation schedule for the entire farm.

The farmer can do the work himself or have it done on sub-contract. Farmers Home Administration or local banks will give him a loan to help him pay his share of costs. Farmers are given three to ten years to complete their plan.

Government costs on the first contract signed are running about two dollars an acre in eastern Montana and the western Dakotas. This region now has fair vegetation coverage, but is said to need range management and more shift

from annual crops to permanent grass cover.

In the seven Great Plains states to the south, government costs are running a little over three dollars an acre.

The area declared eligible for assistance includes eastern Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico, western Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and the Texas panhandle.

Many farms and ranches in this area need reseeded, terracing, fencing, pond development or some irrigation for supplementary feed production. There is a legal limit of \$2,500 that may be spent on irrigation on any one farm.

IN ALL, AN ESTIMATED 235,000 farms in 288 of the 422 counties in this ten-state area are now eligible to receive Great Plains program assistance. More may be added.

One oversimplified explanation of the Great Plains program purpose is that it seeks to get every farmer to use his land as though every year was going to be a drought year.

On this basis he can conserve his land and cut down his losses.

Reader Opinions

Porter's Record Cited
In Answer To Geddes

Mr. Geddes seems to be doing a lot of sounding off about our excellent representation in Congress, Mr. Charles O. Porter, but I am yet to see anything concrete in the way of a platform upon which Mr. Geddes will stand.

The Talent irrigation project is now a reality, thanks to Charles O. Porter. Our state department is taking a long look at aid to dictatorships in Latin America — thanks to Congressman Charles Porter. Access roads into Oregon timber areas are being studied, thanks in part to the vigorous action of Charles Porter. Our Post Office Department is well on its way into the "black" due again to Mr. Porter's untiring work in Washington.

How would Mr. Geddes change these things? Would he be in favor of sending arms to the South American dictators? Would he remove Mr. Porter's work on the Talent project and return the land to sage brush and thistles? Would he have the Post Office Department try to run its affairs in the red? Just what would he do, that Congressman Charles Porter has not done?

R. L. Brakel
2045 Kincaid St.
Eugene, Ore.

Recession Cure Seen
In Power Commission

Here we are in the midst of a depression, and, by my means of reckoning, nearly five million out of work. Is a depression, what? What's being done? Precious little, that's what. The administration is static and actionless; the forces in Congress that would rectify the situation are overwhelmed by inert Republicans and Southern Democrats.

The leaves the recession problem to the individual states, many of whom, like Oregon, have unconvened legislatures and are unable to act. Yet, there is something we can do to spark the economy for now and many a year to come.

There is the initiative petition for an Oregon Power Development Commission, endorsed by the Oregon branches of the Grange, the Farmers' Union, and the AFL-CIO.

This power commission would lure new industries and new jobs into the state with cheap, plentiful hydro-electricity primarily by purchasing federally generated power as a preference customer and reselling it to new industries, presently the least preferred customers for Bonneville power, thanks to a McKay-arranged contract between the federal government and the private power company.

Also, this way Oregon will be able to get its fair share of federally-generated power from the Columbia River, as Washington now does with its many public utilities, all preference customers.

Let's have an Oregon Power Development Commission for new industries and new jobs through cheap, plentiful electricity.

James E. Harris
726 N. Beech St.
Portland, Ore.

Oregon Joins Vehicle
Reciprocity Accord

SALEM (AP)—The governors of Oregon, Idaho and Utah have signed a reciprocity agreement on the use of interstate motor vehicles in the three states after next Jan. 1.

Oregon now has such agreements with 10 states. The agreements provide for the apportionment of registration fees for interstate trucks.

Child, 6, Wins \$10,000, Cruiser, Much Minor Loot

SEATTLE (AP) — Ruth Woods of Seattle learned Monday she won \$10,000 cash, a cabin cruiser and a glittering array of other merchandise in a national contest. And it all may be tax-free as an "act of God."

This may take a little time for Ruth to appreciate.

She's only 6. Lawyers hope the tax collectors will consider the windfall an act of God because the little girl's mother, Mrs. James H. Woods, entered the names of her seven children in the contest on 25 postcards and Ruth exerted no effort toward winning in her own behalf.

The loot in the contest, sponsored by General Mills, includes in addition to the cash and 16-foot cruiser:

Two outboard motors, a power mower, a bicycle, camp table and chairs, golf clubs, fishing rod and reel, an eight-foot plastic wading pool, a cooler, a charcoal brazier. A badminton set, 12 pounds of frankfurters, a year's supply of Wheaties and 12 tenderloin steaks a week for a year.

The cash will go into a trust for the Seattle first grader and will be available for medical or education expenses and will be Ruth's when she is 21. A judge will decide whether the family will be allowed to use the other prizes or whether they must be sold and the proceeds added to Ruth's trust fund.

Commented Daddy, father of six other little Woods:

"Money means as much to me as to the next guy. But the prize that sticks in my mind is the steaks. That means two steak dinners a week for a year."

A-Blasts To Dig Arctic
Harbor Under U. S. Study

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States may use atomic blasts to dig a harbor north of the Arctic Circle in Alaska, the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) announced Monday.

The commission said survey parties will examine the site, between Cape Seppings and Cape Thompson, this summer to determine whether the project can be carried out.

Personnel from the University of California Radiation Laboratory will participate in the field studies, which will provide data on costs as well as topography, geology and oceanography. One purpose of the studies will be to make sure the venture would be safe for persons within and outside the immediate area and for fish and wildlife.

An AEC statement said the harbor could be excavated in 1960 if this summer's investigations indicate the project is safe and practicable.

Honorary Willamette
Degree Given Hatfield

SALEM (AP) — It's Dr. Mark Hatfield now.

The secretary of state was given an honorary doctor of laws degree at Willamette University commencement exercises Sunday.

Hatfield is a Willamette graduate and served as its dean of students before being elected secretary of state two years ago.

Seasonal Harvests, Home Building, Highway Work Give Business A New Lift

By WALTER BREEDER Jr.
NEW YORK (AP) — Seasonal upswings in harvesting, home building and highway construction gave business a lift this week.

There was still no sign of a full-blown economic upturn, and some said there wouldn't be until 1959.

But a few key lines seemed to have suddenly come to life in the warm June sunshine.

National Homes Corp., one of the largest manufacturers of prefabricated houses, cancelled plans for a one-week shutdown and started hiring extra help. The reason: An unexpected influx of new orders.

Southwestern railroads began rounding up freight cars to help haul a bumper crop of winter wheat. In Texas, Kansas and Oklahoma more than 13,000 cars are being used to haul the grain.

The wheat crop is estimated at 1,609,754,000 bushels, up 43 per cent from a year ago.

Mines, Factories Lag
Mine and factory production lagged but government experts reported a rising employment trend in other sectors.

Official government figures showed more than 64 million Americans in paying jobs last month.

Outdoor work — on construction projects and down on the farm — was largely responsible for an increase of 1,154,000 in the total number of Americans employed in May.

Unemployment dipped to 4,804,000 — lowest since January. This month it's likely to climb past the five-million mark again as job-hunting students swell the labor force.

Coast Unity On Ideas,
Advised By Geo. Neuner

PORTLAND (AP) — The legal profession in Pacific Coast states would benefit greatly by closer cooperation and interchange of ideas.

This advice was given by George Neuner, president of the Oregon State Bar, at the final session of a three-day meeting of the Oregon, Washington and California state bars here Sunday.

Neuner said lawyers would be better able to serve their clients and communities if attorneys were familiar with legal work in other states.

He predicted that more regional bar meetings would be held in the future.

The meeting was attended by bar association officials representing 30,500 Pacific Coast attorneys.

Racial Rifts Demand
Education, Holmes Says

PORTLAND (AP) — The final answer to the problem of religious and racial prejudice is education, Gov. Robert Holmes told the Oregon Forum on Intergroup Relations here.

He said "mere enforcement of the law" is not enough. Oregon, Holmes added, also must strive to end discrimination against elderly persons and migrant workers.

Other bright spots on the economic scene:

With the auto industry still in low gear, new car dealers reported a sharp sales pickup in the last 11 days of May.

Schedules Overtime
Chevrolet scheduled overtime at its Cleveland powerglide transmission plant. This will mean fatter paychecks for some 6,000 employees.

Steel production — still down 26 per cent from last year — hit its fastest stride in five months.

The stock market pushed repeatedly to a series of new 1958 highs. Prices of steel scrap and reclaimed copper moved up.

Over on the minus side, lead prices sagged to an eight-year low, department store sales were behind last year's pace and volume of business loans by leading New York banks kept falling. Two big retail chains reported red ink operations for the first fiscal quarter.

Short-range forecasts by prominent people in government and business were anything but rosy.

"Business is bad," said William J. Levitt, the nation's largest homebuilder. "I don't think there will be a substantial recovery in either business or housing in 1958."

From the staff of the Joint Congressional Economic Committee came predictions that unemployment is likely to reach 5½ million next winter and could go as high as 7 million.

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