

Colorful Lumbering Veteran To Retire At Gardiner After 43 Years In Business

J. W. (Bill) Graham, a 47-year lumber veteran and one of the most colorful figures in the West Coast lumber industry, is hanging up his tally book and grading pencil.

Best identified as a supervisor for the West Coast Lumber Inspection Bureau for the past 23 years, Bill Graham is known from coast to coast wherever lumbermen get together.

He was born in 1893 in Gardiner, at the mouth of the Umpqua River, and was knee-deep in sawdust from the time he was a toddler. His 90-year-old mother, Mrs. James Graham, still lives in the house in Gardiner where son Bill was born and where she has lived for 73 years.

Bill's father, Capt. James Graham, was likewise born in Gardiner, and operated the stern-wheeler "Eva" from Gardiner to Scottsburg for the Umpqua Navigation Co., of which he was a stockholder. For 17 years, after Captain Jim became too deaf to hold a pilot's license, he was light-tender for the Umpqua Port. Mrs. Graham, at one time, held the only woman's pilot license on the river and sailed with her husband on the "Eva" and the "Cricket," a companion boat.

Bill Graham was one of six chil-

dren and, after graduating from the old Gardiner Grade School, entered Oregon Agricultural College at 14, graduating in 1911 with an engineering degree. His first job was with the old Gardiner Mill Co., a pioneer lumber firm founded by the famed Hindsdale family. He remained there until 1917 when he went off to war as a chief machinist's mate. While in the Navy, he attended Columbia University.

In 1919, Bill Graham, fresh from his navy duty, took a job as inspector for the Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau until 1923. For two years he conducted classes in lumber grading for the State Board of Vocational Education under the Smith-Hughes Act.

Bill Graham has a restless energy and always has to be doing something interesting and constructive. He became chief inspector and shipping clerk for the old Pacific Spruce (C. D. Johnson Lumber Corp.) in 1925 and worked in that capacity until 1933. As early as 1940 he was conducting joint grading classes for the Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau and West Coast Lumber Inspection Bureau.

Seventeen of his 23 years with West Coast Lumber Inspection Bureau were spent in the San Francisco area, and the last six years he has headquartered at Gardiner to be near his aged mother. He was stationed in Eugene for a time. Frisco Sessions Held

Bill always stayed at the Golden State Hotel in San Francisco, a sort of hangout for the lumber inspecting crowd. Tommy McCormick, long-time manager, recalls that Bill Graham and Tom An-



J. W. (BILL) GRAHAM
... knee-deep in sawdust

draws, an old-time California Redwood Assn. inspector, always kept the lobby knee-deep in sawdust when they were around. They would figuratively grade pieces of lumber half the night, arguing over allowable characteristics. It was a sort of mental gymnastics exercise these two hardies took every night just to keep fit and in shape for the next day's work, McCormick believes.

Many a young inspector and su-

pervisor for the West Coast today owes much of his early training and knowledge of lumber to loquacious Bill Graham, the man who was never at a loss for a word. He would spend endless hours with these young men who were eager to learn their trade, and he was a dedicated teacher whose one interest in life was lumber, and who lived, ate and slept lumber.

In his last few years in Gardiner, Bill Graham has channeled some of his restless energy into youth work, and, although a bachelor, has acted as sponsor and mentor of a teen-age basketball team, paying their expenses on trips and in general looking after them. He trains boys in hunting, teaches them safety in handling of firearms, and buys ammunition for those who otherwise couldn't afford this sport.

Boss Gives Accolade

"Bill Graham was one of our most valued employees," said his immediate superior, Howard Brown, general superintendent of the West Coast Lumber Inspection Bureau. "There will never be another just like him. He was honest, conscientious, and no job was too tough or too mean for him to handle. He had a way with people. I have never known a man with so many friends. I hope he enjoys

Reclassification Of Timber Asked

SALEM (AP)—The state Tax Commission hearing on timber taxation was told Thursday by Frank Kincaid, chief forester of Pope and Talbot's Oakridge operations, there should be more specific classification of timber designated as Class B Old Growth. There is a possible variation in value of \$11.75 a thousand feet for timber in this classification and it should be broken down into good, fair and poor grades to better establish the value, Kincaid said.

Most of the Pope and Talbot timber is in Class B Old Growth. Testifying Wednesday afternoon were Robert Hohenhaus, timber appraisal supervisor for the Lane County assessor's office from 1953 until 1956 and now on the Tax Commission staff, and Norman Marsh, the commission's inventory supervisor for timber.

Marsh said contract cruisers engaged by the county and state to inventory the eastern part of Lane County were competent and their work had been found accurate.

his retirement down there along the Oregon Coast, the country he loves and belongs to, but I don't know how he is ever going to completely disassociate himself from the lumber industry of which he has been an important part for nearly half a century. All of us here at West Coast wish him the best of luck."

Bill Graham was just as active when he was a boy and had just as many interesting experiences. At one time, when he was still in grade school, he drove a two-wheeled cart along the sands from Gardiner to Coos Bay, transporting doctors back and forth. It was a sort of bob-tailed stage line. He belonged to the Gardiner Athlete Club and was considered quite an

athlete. As early as 12, he was working the river boats with his parents. Since neither of them could swim, it was not an uncommon sight to see one fishing the other out of the river when they fell overboard.

This amazing lumber expert has been on an intimate, first-name basis with virtually every important lumber figure of the West Coast. Numbered among his friends are such men as Howard Hindsdale, former Gardiner lumberman; Judge Carl Wimberly of Roseburg; Colonel W. B. Greeley; Harry Murphy, now head of the Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau; Hal Simpson, executive vice president of the West Coast Lumbermen's Assn., and a world of others.

Teamsters Leaders Took Over Business After Owner Disappeared, Says Witness

WASHINGTON (AP)—The former manager of a now defunct Indianapolis taxi cab company testified Thursday Teamster leaders took over the company before its president vanished mysteriously.

Hugh Wagner told the Senate Rackets Investigating Committee the unionists gave no explanation of the take-over but later complained of mismanagement by Da Probst, the president who disappeared in 1955 and is presumed to be dead.

Wagner's statement came after testimony by Teamsters President James R. Hoffa that he scarcely knew Probst but had loaned him \$8,000.

The senators, who had spent Wednesday trailing unsuccessfully for the identity of the higher-ups who quelled a 1953 House investigation of Hoffa, switched suddenly to study of the taxi company case.

Thin, Nervous

Wagner, a thin, nervous man who now works as a locksmith, said Indianapolis teamsters Gene San Soucie and Gus Zapas entered his office with Probst a few weeks after Wagner had become office manager of State Cab Co. in December, 1954.

"They told me Mr. Probst wouldn't have anything to do with State Cab Co. and I would take orders from Mr. Zapas," Wagner said.

The committee identified Zapas as president of Indianapolis Local 58 of the Barriers Union and an employee of the Indiana Conference of Teamsters. San Soucie is president of Teamsters Local 235 in Indianapolis.

"What was happening that teamster officials came in and told you that the union was running the company," Committee Counsel Robert F. Kennedy asked. "I didn't understand it myself," Wagner replied.

Wagner said he gave the receipts daily to Zapas from that time until the company was sold to another Indianapolis taxi firm in January, 1955.

Admits Loan

Hoffa testified he and Owen Bert Brennan, an International

Singer Allan Jones Gets Alimony Payments Cut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Superior Court has ordered singer Allan Jones' \$1,500 monthly alimony payments reduced \$500.

Actress Irene Hervey divorced Jones last December after a marriage of 20 years. The singer then married Mary Florsheim Picking, shoe heiress.

Jones, behind in alimony payments, said his income from singing engagements has dropped recently.

TAKES OVER BUSINESS

Ronald K. Parr, 2812 W. Sanders Ave., Roseburg, has filed the assumed business name of Sheet Metal & Heating with Charles Doerner, county clerk.

The instrument was recorded after Parr and John C. Miller filed notice of retirement from the business of Miller & Parr Sheet Metal, Roseburg.

Fri. Aug. 15, 1958—The News-Review, Roseburg, Ore. 3

Circuit Court

Divorce Suits Filed

Leona Lucille vs. Eugene Henry Bixby on grounds of cruelty. Plaintiff asks custody of four minor children and \$200 a month support, a 1949 car and household furnishings and appliances. Married Sept. 2, 1943, at Eagle Bend, Minn. Jacqueline vs. Charles Kampas on cruelty grounds. Plaintiff seeks custody of one child and \$50 a month support. Married Oct. 10, 1954, in Roseburg.

Arthur H. vs. Von Trice Edwards on grounds of cruelty, petitioning a decree for plaintiff and award of six minor children to defendant with \$35 a month support for each child, personal property and household furnishings. Married at Rogers, Ark., on Dec. 23, 1938.

Mildred A. vs. Albert Chadd on cruelty grounds. Plaintiff seeks custody of adopted child and \$50 a month for support, and an equity in real property. Married at Pagosa Springs, Colo., on June 14, 1924.

Bob E. vs. Dorothy M. Collins on cruelty grounds. Plaintiff seeks ratification of property settlement. Married at Roseburg, May 14, 1948.

Civil Actions

Kenneth K. Condon and Lester M. Johns, executors for the estate of B. P. John vs. Elaine Ash, seeking \$1,500 judgment and interest on alleged unpaid promissory note. State Unemployment Compensation Commission vs. J. P. Heath, an action to collect about \$102, interest and penalty in alleged delinquent payroll tax.

Kency Credit Service Inc. vs. Donald E. Bourassa, a suit to collect alleged \$1,635 and interest due on merchandise purchased from Union Oil Co. of Calif.

William and Aileen Otto vs. Paul B. Hult, dba Hult Lumber Co. and Wayne Mollett, asking judgment of \$20,000 for alleged negligence of driver in truck-bicycle traffic death of Timothy Otto on Aug. 10, 1956.

Kency Credit Service Inc. vs. Marcus J. Cloud, an action to collect alleged \$1,002 and interest owed for merchandise purchased from Union Oil Co. of Calif.

Philip Beckley and L. O. Thomas, dba Beckley & Thomas vs. M. R. Weber, seeking order for payment of \$222, interest and fees for alleged unpaid balance on promissory note, and order for sale of chattel to meet obligation.

Philip J. LaBrake vs. State Industrial Accident Commission, requesting jury trial and order for Commission to award compensation for medical expenses connected with Feb. 4, 1958, industrial accident.

Vital Statistics

Marriage License

Homel L. Gray Jr., Sutherlin, and Neva Jean Sumner, Roseburg.

PATROL PLANES FIGHT

TAIPEI, Formosa (AP)—Two Chinese Nationalist patrol planes fought an eight-minute aerial battle with Communist jet fighters near Matsui on Monday Wednesday. The Defense Ministry said the Nationalist planes returned to base safely.

Elgarose Visited By Californians

By THELMA HANSON

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hargesheimer and daughter, Carol, of San Jose, Calif., have returned to their home after visiting with friends in Elgarose. They left by way of Reno and went to Mexico. The Hargesheimers were former residents of Elgarose.

Saturday evening a potluck picnic was given in their honor at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Sand, Glenn, Stevie and Kathie Parr.

Visit Bay

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Mathewman of Green, and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Nelson went to Winchester Bay Thursday.

Joe Sand was home overnight this past week with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Sand, Glenn and Stevie. He is stationed at Cinder Prairie Lookout Station.

George Sundberg and Carl E. Johnson took a load of chickens to Portland Monday. On their way home, they visited with Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Wimer and daughter, Stephanie, of Salem and Donald Sundberg of Eugene.

Stevie Sand son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Sand is visiting this week with his brother-in-law and sister Mr. and Mrs. Harry Johnson of Portland.

FAMED INVALID DIES

NEW YORK (AP)—Nellie Revell, noted newspaper woman, author, and theatrical press agent who once was termed the nation's most famous invalid, is dead at 85. Miss Revell died this week at University Hospital. Final rites will be held at Springfield, Ill., where she had her first newspaper job on the old Illinois Republican, edited and published by her father.

In the early 1920s she was hospitalized with a severe spinal illness. Bedridden for several years in St. Vincent's Hospital here, she wrote two books: "Right Off the Chest" and "Fightin' Through."

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