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LOCAL LUMBER MILLS SHIP TO WORLD MARKETS

OLDEST INDUSTRY IN UNION COUNTY ALSO ONE OF THE LARGEST

First One-run Mill Established in 1863—Present Group of Modern Plants Supply Flour to All Corners of Globe and Handle as High as Million and Half Bushels Annually

Probably the oldest industry in Union county is the flour mill industry, which dates back as far as 1863, when the city of La Grande was still very young. The first flour mill of which there was any record was built during that year by John Wilkinson.

This was a one-run stone mill, using steam to supply the power, and was located in Mill Creek canyon above La Grande. This mill could grind out about 10 barrels of flour a day. John Caviness sold the first crop of wheat he raised in the valley to this mill, receiving \$1.50 a bushel. The mill was later sold to Mr. Crandall, of Old Town, who operated it for several years.

Second Mill at Union

In 1864 the father of the late W. T. Wright built another small stone burr mill at Union, which he operated for several years. It was finally destroyed by fire. About this time James Rinehart built a water-power stone burr mill at Summerville, which was in operation until about 1884, when it was remodeled and converted into a roller-process mill. This mill burned down a few years later.

Not long after the Rinehart mill was built (and Martin built another stone mill at Summerville and later disposed of it to George and Robert Luckman, who remodeled it into a roller mill.

About 1865 Olds and Harker built a small water-power mill at Orondel, which they sold a few years later to Souders and Minor. It was operated under this management for several years until it was caught by a high water flood of the Grande Ronde river and washed out.

In 1870 Henry and French built a water-power mill at Cove, which they operated for several years and later sold to Mr. Jaycox, who remodeled it into a roller mill.

The next year, 1871, John Caviness and Mr. Sterling built a water-power mill at Island City on the same site that the present mill, owned by the Pioneer Flour Mill company, stands. At this time wheat was selling at from 40 cents to 45 cents a barrel.

In 1885 Mr. Caviness sold his mill to the Island City Mercantile and Milling company, this company operating the mill until 1896 with Charles Goodhouse as manager, when it was disposed of to the Pioneer Flour Mill company, with Ed Kiddle as president and manager, W. G. Hunter, father of Albert R. Hunter, as vice president, and C. H. Hildahl as secretary.

The present company from which the present system of Kiddle mills and warehouses in the Grande Ronde valley was established.

This mill was burned to the ground in September, 1902, and while it was being rebuilt the company purchased the Union Flouring mill, which was built by John Jaycox about 1874. Soon after that the company also bought the Farmers' Alliance mill in La Grande, which was built by an organization of the farmers of the valley, known as the Farmers' Alliance. Members brought their grain to the mill and had it ground into flour there, leaving a portion of the flour for the use of the mill. This mill was built about 1879.

In the year 1905 the Grande Ronde Grain company was organized and warehouses were purchased at Conley siding and Alben. In 1908 the Pioneer mill at Island City was again burned down and while it was being rebuilt the Pioneer Flouring mill was purchased, this mill having been built in 1902 by McKinnis and Hildahl.

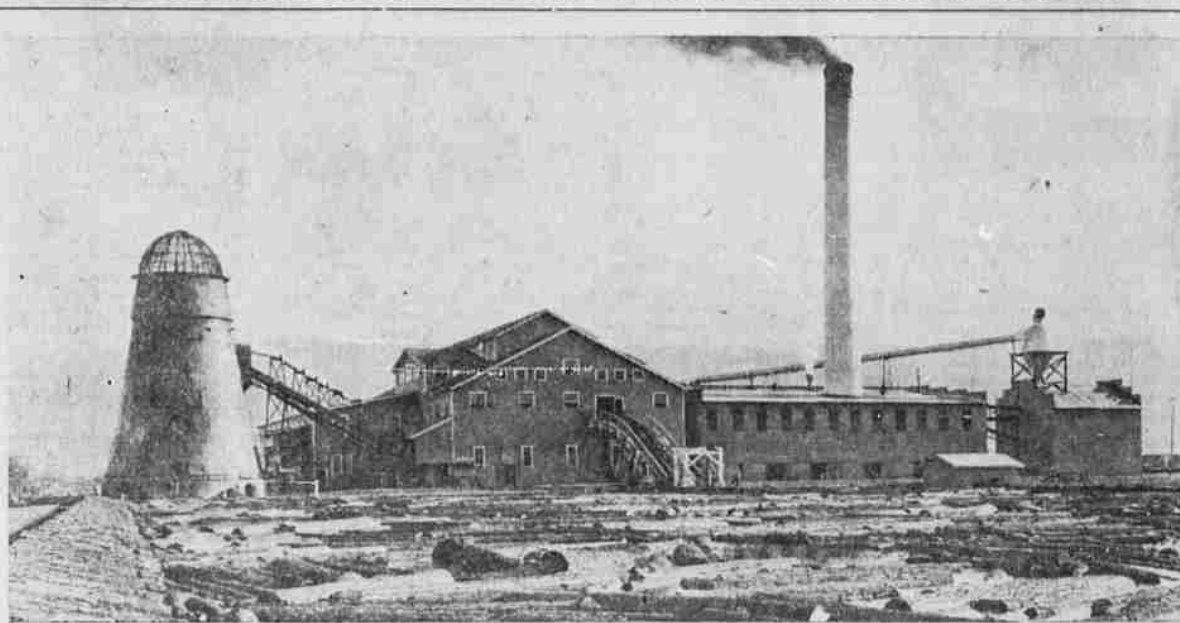
Continues To Expand
Shortly after that the Elgin Flouring mill, which was built about 1897 by Hallgarth and McKinnis, was purchased by the Pioneer Flour Mill company, all of the flour mills in the county now being under the same control with the exception of one mill at Cove.

Present Holdings
At present the company owns in addition to the mill at Island City the flour mill at La Grande, one at Elgin and one at Cove, also several warehouses over the valley, including one at Hot Lake, one at the Conley siding, one at Alben, one at Imbler. There is also a warehouse in connection with every mill.

The present officers of the company are Fred H. Kiddle, president; Martin W. Kiddle, vice president; and Fred H. Kiddle, secretary. Although the mills are all under the same management each is a separate corporation. The warehouses are managed under the Grande Ronde Grain company, the officers of which are the same.

Electric Mills
The mills at La Grande and Elgin are run by electricity, and those at Island City and Union are run by both electricity and water power, the latter being used whenever there is sufficient water. The Island City mill is the largest of the four, the company owning

HUGE SAWMILL AND LOG POND OF THE MT. EMILY LUMBER CO.



The Mt. Emily Lumber company's sawmill, pictured above, is the largest in Eastern Oregon and anticipates a 50-year life at least in this territory. It began continuous operations here Jan. 20, 1926 and by the first of this year had cut 45,000,000 feet of lumber. Fifty million feet is the regular annual cut. The log pond is shown in the foreground and the giant burner to the left, in close proximity to the mill. A glimpse of the mammoth dry shed may be had at the extreme right in the distance and the planing mill is near the dry shed. The Mt. Emily Lumber company's headquarters are in Wisconsin, where three more large mills are located. The one in La Grande is the first western mill of the company.

Mt. Emily Lumber Company Plant Is Largest Pine Mill in Eastern Oregon

45,000,000 Ft. Cut in Less Than Year; Annual Payroll \$752,000.

The Mt. Emily Lumber company plant, located northeast of the business district of La Grande is the largest pine mill in Eastern Oregon and is a big factor in this city's progress. It is the first western mill of the company, which has three other large plants in Wisconsin.

Construction was started here in 1924 and the mill was turned over for the first time Nov. 20, 1925. About Jan. 20, 1926 the sawmill started operating all sides and since then has been in continuous operation, cutting about 150,000 board feet of lumber daily and averaging approximately 50,000,000 feet annually.

45,000,000 Feet 1926 Cut
In its first year of operation here—actually less than a year—the mill cut amounted to 45,000,000 feet. One thousand three hundred and fifty-seven carloads of lumber, averaging 25,000 feet each, were shipped out of the yards last year, about 67 carloads going to local points.

At present the mill is operating one shift, nine hours a day, six days a week. The annual payroll is \$752,000 and a total of 545 workmen are employed by the company. In the event that an emergency should arise necessitating two-shift operation, these figures would increase greatly.

The Sawmill
The sawmill is 114 by 214 feet with 22 main concrete bases that support the steam "giggers," kickers, loaders and main line shafting. Three head ricks and a rim saw, a double edger, a single edger, two trimmers and a complete lathe mill department are operated. Lath is pared out of what would otherwise be waste and this part of the waste is turned into a marketable product. The mill is equipped with Diamond Iron Works machinery although the planer has Woods machinery.

Huge Plant Contemplated
The Mt. Emily Lumber company acquired about 20 acres of land east of the acreage occupied by the plant and is now developing this property. The company believes it would, in the near future, need this ground for the erection of a plant for closer utilization of the sawmill.

MODERN LOGGING METHODS



The days of the river drive, bringing millions of feet of timber to the sawmills in the spring, is past in this part of the west and instead the most modern logging methods are employed in bringing the logs to the mills. Above is a scene taken in winter time of a logging railroad in the woods near here. In bringing the logs to the mill, different methods are used. The horse is used often when the work is down hill and uphill the tractor and skidders are employed. On long chutes the caterpillar method is often utilized.

LOCAL AIRPORT SEEN IN FUTURE

What Many Regard As Preliminary Steps Already Taken

Back in the 60's when the pioneers began arriving in the Grande Ronde valley in ever increasing numbers, worn and weary from their long trek across the sun-baked desert land of Southern Idaho, the rugged Rockies and the long stretches of arid, level, soil of the mountains, they did not foresee that within less than 70 years swift, speedy airplanes would cut the distance they needed a year to traverse into a two-day aerial journey.

Yet today, practically every large area in the United States is covered by a network of airplane routes, mostly serving citizens with air mail but here and there taking up the task of carrying passengers.

La Grande is directly on one of the air routes, established a year ago last spring, which connects with the trans-continental route at Salt Lake City and leads through Boise to Pocatello, Wash.

And, although it is present this city is but an emergency stopping place, predictions are being made by government officials, business men and others, that in the near future La Grande will be an airport, serving Union and Walla Walla territories.

These predictions are based partly upon preliminary steps that have already been taken and upon the facts that both La Grande and the airport service are growing rapidly. Developing is great strides that give promise of a wonderful future.

Broad Hints Made
Government officials have hinted broadly that the time is not far distant when La Grande and other

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Marble and Granite Company One Of the City's Oldest Business Firms

The Hite, Mountain Marble and Granite company is one of La Grande's oldest firms, and reflects the progress of the city from year to year in the growth of the business itself.

The company was started in La Grande 24 years ago by E. C. Davis and has operated here continuously since that time under his management. When the business first opened it occupied one small office in the building known as the McClain-Older warehouse on Jefferson avenue between Fir and Greenwood streets, but after about a year in that location was moved to a site on Fir street, between Adams and Washington avenues, where, through a changing ownership, it remained for about 15 years when it was moved to the present location at 1462 E. avenue, the expansion of the business making the move necessary.

Service Large Area
The company is the only one of its kind in Union and Walla Walla counties and serves not only the people of these two counties but also those who come into Baker county as well and sometimes into Grant county and across the state into Idaho. A salesman is employed and covers all of Union and Walla Walla counties regularly.

Mr. Davis started into the business in October, 1903, with less than \$100 to invest in stock. He had a few tools and did all of his own work. The little room was all that was necessary to carry on

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LUMBER BIG FACTOR IN PROSPERITY AND GROWTH OF CITY

Three Mills Produced Nearly 150,000,000 Feet Last Year—Payroll of Two Plants Located Here Exceeds \$1,000,000 Annually—More Than 3000 Persons Dependent on Industry

When the person who knows it of La Grande asks the average citizen what has built the city, the answer is usually: lumber, railroad and agriculture.

Of these three items which have played so great a part in the growth of La Grande, the lumbering industry—the newest of the three—is one of the most important.

For instance, figures show that the combined number of men employed in La Grande in lumbering mills at present runs about 550 to 600. Let each of these men represent a family, say of four to be conservative, and one finds that approximately 2400 persons in this city are directly dependent upon the lumbering industry for their livelihood.

Then, adding to the 550 to 600 men employed here, the several hundred more who are working in the woods near this city, and one can readily estimate at least 2000 persons are supported by this one of the "Big Three." Practically all of the men who log in the Five Points creek district either are La Grande people or else come to La Grande on holidays and for provisions. A number of the men employed at and near Poodosa have families here and actually call La Grande their home. A few of the men employed at Maxwell, also come from La Grande and send part of their pay checks back to families in this city.

From a business standpoint, the lumbering mills are extremely important to the prosperity of La Grande.

Ship Lumber Worth \$2,913,086
During 1926 the value of the lumber shipped from La Grande was \$2,913,086—just a shade less than three millions of dollars!

A large part of this sum was paid out to lumbering companies' employees, another large slice went for supplies, food, and other articles purchased in La Grande—in fact almost all of the nearly three millions of dollars was put into circulation in this community, to indirectly benefit every person in this part of the Grande Ronde valley.

The payrolls of the two mills which have plants in La Grande—Bowman-Hicks Lumber company and the Grande Ronde company—amounted to more than a million dollars last year, and, when greater production is desired and two shifts are operated, this figure expands considerably. Two shifts were operated only for a short time by any of the mills in 1926.

The Bowman-Hicks company's La Grande payroll last year was approximately \$300,000. This, in addition to the payroll of the Walla Walla plant and the loggers at Maxwell.

The Mt. Emily company paid out more than three-quarters of a million dollars to both local workers and men in the logging camps. The loggers can be included in this because the camp near Hilgard trades with La Grande.

In addition, the Grande Ronde Lumber company at Perry, swelled the total greatly last year, but the bulk of its employees trade this year, because of the removal of the plant to Poodosa, is going to Baker

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that La Grande does not benefit as greatly from this source. However, with the company's headquarters still in this city, a considerable amount—tens of thousands of dollars—find their way into La Grande.

Heavy Production
From a production standpoint, the three mills produce a tremendous quantity of lumber, the greater part of which moves through this city on its way to markets farther east.

The Bowman-Hicks company (both La Grande and Walla Walla plants) cut approximately 71,000,000 feet of lumber last year. The Mt. Emily Lumber company, which did not start all sides of the mill until late in January, 1926, cut 45,000,000 and this year expects to cut 50,000,000 with a full twelve months of operation in store. The Grande Ronde Lumber company's cut averages 29,000,000.

All of the Wallow cut has come through La Grande, because of its geographical location, and a large majority of the Grande Ronde company's cut was handled through this city. All of the Mt. Emily lumber, of course, was shipped out of this city.

Adding the three cuts together, it amounts to the staggering total of 141,000,000 board feet of lumber. And this year the same three companies will probably cut nearer 150,000,000.

Long Life Assured
Incidentally, the three mills own enough timber land in fee simple and are available to enough nearby government reserves to insure their continuous operation on this basis for up to 50 years—the period the Mt. Emily company figures on. The Bowman-Hicks company and the Grande Ronde company probably have a shorter life in store in their present locations, but nevertheless, enough to keep them in heavy production for around 25 or more years.

The lumbering industry did not flourish prominently in this city's progress for many years after the railroad came through the Grande Ronde valley and agriculture played an important part before the locomotives and passenger coaches arrived on steel rails. But after it once was firmly established, lumbering made great, progressive strides until, late years, it has been one of the most prominent factors in La Grande's transformation from a small town into the metropolitan center of the great Eastern Oregon territory.

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Fair Minnehaha Would Have Rivals

PORTLAND, Ore., (AP)—If the fair Minnehaha of Longfellow's poetical Indian romance were alive today she would have many rivals for the love of the brave Hiawatha.

The Pacific Northwest has a number of these Indian maidens. Among them are Princess Christina, Sherburn of Wenatchee, a full blood Nez-Percé-Spokane Indian girl, Pretty Silver Star of Pendleton, of the Umatilla tribe, is another. She was elected princess of that Fair Post, the only All-Indian post of the American Legion. A third is "Little Pawan", a princess of the Klamath tribe who lives in Humboldt county, California.

Complexities Attend Wealth of Indian

WEWOKA, Okla., (AP)—Money has been accompanied by complexities for Daniel Joshua, Seminole Indian, who from his hill-top home near here has watched this country change from a primitive forest to a town building with oil derricks. Joshua is meeting a divorce from Florence Le Rous, a white woman, whom he charges kidnaped and married into white he was under the influence of liquor.

The Indian's old holdings augmented by the inheritance of land owned by his deceased first wife, are estimated to be worth \$100,000.

Despite his wealth, Joshua refuses to purchase an automobile, although he rides in one belonging to his daughter. His favorite mode of transportation is his horse-drawn highboard. All of Joshua's 60 years have been spent on the same farm.

POLICEMAN BECOMES SCENARIO WRITER

BURLIN (AP)—Police Inspector Ernest Engelbrecht has turned his resignation to the Berlin chief of police to become a scenario writer.

Some time ago Inspector Engelbrecht attracted considerable attention with a number of serial novels in a radio periodical. One of the foremost German film producing companies engaged him as playwright.