

Three Things to Watch as Tall Wood Buildings Rise in the Northwest

A closer look at opportunities in the burgeoning Cross Laminated Timber market

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Tall wood buildings are on the rise in the Northwest, along with demand for cross-laminated timber (CLT), the engineered wood product used to make them. With a foothold in Europe, Canada, and New Zealand, the market

for CLT is still in its infancy in the United States, but is already estimated at \$4 billion.

Building with wood is nothing new, of course — so why the sudden surge of interest? Let's take a closer look at CLT and three big reasons to pay attention to it.

CLT is changing the building industry

Against a backdrop of rapidly growing urban populations and a shortage of affordable housing, and in light of the abundance of our region's forests, interest in CLT from Northwest architects

is growing. The material has been incorporated into dozens of low and mid-rise buildings (almost all below 20 stories tall) around the world, including these five buildings that are either in design or construction right here in Oregon:

- Lever Architecture's Albina Yard building
- PATH Architecture's 8-story Carbon 12 building that has broken ground in North Portland
- Beneficial State Bank's new Framework building, which is another Lever project and will reach 12 stories

- OSU College of Forestry's new Oregon Forest Science Complex
- Springfield's 4-story parking garage

These buildings are increasingly being referred to as "tall wood buildings" or "mass timber construction."

The Engineered Wood Association describes a CLT panel as, "several layers of kiln-dried lumber boards stacked in alternating directions, bonded with structural adhesives, and pressed to form a solid, straight, rectangular panel. While at the mill, CLT panels are cut to

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The Ku Klux Klan and My Grandmother's House *continued from page 3*

property ownerships rights to Japanese.

This was the high water mark of the Klan in Oregon. As quickly as it rose, it fell. Infighting within the Oregon leadership, a sex scandal and fighting over the considerable money the Klan was bringing in — as much as \$24,000,000 in 1922 -- helped lead to its demise. Disclosures by disaffected members showed the deep commercial nature of the Klan. By the end of the decade, the Klan had deteriorated significantly. The Klan push for what they called a 100% society was hard to maintain. The system of cross-referrals between Klan businesses hit a nerve. Signs advertising businesses as 100% American -- code for Klan -- started coming down. The compulsory Education Act was declared unconstitutional and a similar version failed badly in Washington State. Governor Pierce was badly beaten in his re-election. It was as if a big storm had blown through and there was considerable relief it was over.

It could not have been easy on Down River Road's 200 or so residents. The five black children of school age in 1924 were denied access to Vernonia Schools. They went to school in Portland, boarding mostly with relatives, while Portland's foremost Civil Rights leader at the time, Beatrice Morrow Cannady, negotiated on their behalf. While certainly intimidated, the people in the shacks were not passive. They formed their own NAACP Chapter and their kids were able to enter school in their home town in 1925.

The Klan was quite active in Vernonia and the local Klavern discussed constructing its own building. The Klan marched in parades and held picnics and the local paper, the *Vernonia Eagle*, reported extensively on its initia-

tions. The powerful Tillamook and Astoria Klaverns held large rallies — Astoria claimed 2,000 Klansmen — which moved between Tillamook, Astoria and Vernonia one weekend in 1922. The glow of many burning crosses fell on those shacks.

It's clear that Vernonia at the time was an explosion waiting to happen. It's thrown together population, not only contained fairly large communities of Blacks, Filipinos and Japanese, but also many immigrants. A big crowd of Klansmen in town and the little Down River Road community never did clash, though doubtless there were humiliations and near misses. Perhaps the O and A company was a steady hand in town, not wanting race or religion to complicate the business of making, transporting and selling the lumber from those mighty Douglas firs.

In the summer of 1954, we'd moved in with my grandmother during a tough time. My brother and I slept on a big featherbed our parents had rigged up in the garage. We'd slowly sink down until little but noses and toes peaked out of the mattress and those were quickly topped with a big comforter.

We'd walk down the hill, past a very aggressive German shepherd, to the berry bus that would carry us out to Banks and its strawberry and blackcap fields, stopping at the Banks Dairy Queen on the way back to spend most of the two or three dollars we made. Dropped off in the early afternoon, we'd then

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head down to play ball at the high school field, across the creek from the shacks. A couple of kids from the shacks would play catch or join the pick-up games, but I don't recall if those kids played on one of the several official teams in our little

boys league that played in Vernonia, Mist, Goble, Scappoose, Clatskanie, and St. Helens.

When we lived there, in 1954, the mill was in the process of being cannibalized in a series of mergers and purchases and finally closed in 1957. It had created 2.5 billion board feet of lumber and cut nearly all the old growth fir in the area. The last load of lumber sent out from the mill contained a message on butcher paper tacked to the logs:

"Last Load"
"Oregon American from 1922-1957."
"Ain't No More!!"

As a college student in 1964 I was driving from Eugene to Cannon Beach to meet friends. Passing by the Banks cutoff, I made a snap decision to drive to Vernonia over the 15 mile road

where, years earlier, I would hold my breath and wonder if my Dad would pull over, stop the car and invite me to drive the rest of the way, my Mom not approving.

After a disappointing stop at my grandma's house — the strawberry field had a house on it — I drove down to the High School and walked down to the baseball field across from the shacks at what I know now as Down River Road. It was known as Anderson Park Road after the RV Park the city developed once a successor company to O and A decided the land to the city of Vernonia. There was nothing there. I hopped the creek and inspected the bushes and fill. I could find no artifacts, none. No pieces of plumbing or door knobs, a spoon or a clothes hanger. There was nothing there to show that people once lived there, strangers in their own town. Somehow defeated, I drove on to the coast through the next generations of Douglas fir.

This article was originally published on September 26, 2013 in Bob Royer's blog The Cascadia Courier, and is reprinted with permission. Bob Royer is a native Oregonian who adopted the state of Washington in 1965. He lives in Seattle with his wife Barbara.

Police Blotter • February 1-13, 2017

ARRESTS / REPORTS TAKEN

- February 1, 2017 Report of a Stolen Vehicle near North Mist Dr.
- February 6, 2017 Report of outside Agency Assist near Nehalem HWY North
- February 6, 2017 Report of Disorderly Conduct II near Madison and Maple St.
- February 6, 2017 Report of Stolen Vehicle Recovered near Spencer Ave. and East Alabama Ave.
- February 9, 2017 Report of a Stolen Vehicle near Louisiana Ave.
- February 9, 2017 Report of Unlawful Entry of a Motor Vehicle near Knott St.
- February 11, 2017 Arrest for Disorderly Conduct II and Harassment near Bridge St.
- February 12, 2017 Arrested on a Warrant near California Ave.
- February 12, 2017 Report of an Abandoned Vehicle near East Ave. and North St.
- February 13, 2017 Report of a non-injury Motor Vehicle Crash near Bridge St. and Texas Ave.

CITATIONS / OTHER

- February 2, 2017 Cited for Driving While Suspended and Driving Uninsured near Bridge St. and Washington Ave.
- February 4, 2017 Cited for Violation of the Posted Speed near North Mist Dr. and Grove St.
- February 8, 2017 Cited for Expired Registration near Rose Ave. and Cougar St.
- February 9, 2017 Cited for Driving While Suspended and Uninsured near East Alabama Ave. and Riverside Dr.
- February 10, 2017 Cited for Driving While Suspended and Uninsured near Bridge St. and Jefferson Ave.
- February 10, 2017 Cited for Driving While Suspended/Careless/and Uninsured near Nehalem HWY South.
- February 11, 2017 Cited for No Insurance near North Mist Dr. and Douglas St.
- February 12, 2017 Cited for Driving While Suspended near Bridge St. and California Ave.

Vernonia Police Department responds to calls that do not always end in Arrest, Report, or Citation. 02/01/2017 through 02/13/2017 VPD had 178 calls for service.

The Vernonia Transfer Station is open on the 2nd and 4th Saturday from 8am-2pm

**February 25
March 11 & 25**

Dates and times are subject to change due to weather

Vernonia City Council Meetings and Closures

City Council Meetings are scheduled for 7:00 pm:
Tuesday, February 21, 2017
Monday, March 6, 2017

City Closures are scheduled for:
Monday, February 20, 2017
Presidents' Day Holiday

Dates and times subject to change