

**BROOKINGS HARBOR PILOT**

THERE'S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR CIRCULATION

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MINNA AKERS, Owner and Publisher

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**Slowdown in Plywood**

The one week vacation taken by the Brookings Plywood Company last week brings home a point that is becoming increasingly evident in the lumber business. The plant-wide vacation was taken as the alternative to reduced production . . . a reduction necessitated by mounting inventories and slow sales in the lumber mills of the west.

The vacation at Brookings was no isolated case. In plant after plant along the coast, working hours have been curtailed because of failure to move lumber as rapidly as it is produced.

The slow down in lumber sales has some producers frankly worried. They see no alternative ahead to decreasing production, perhaps to the point where the marginal producers are forced out of the business. And a few of them are already forecasting a depression for the woods lands of the west.

Charles Sprague of the Salem Statesman attributes the lackadaisical sales of lumber primarily to the fact that high fixed costs of raw materials and labor have forced plywood and other machined lumber right out of the market. With sky-high prices being maintained for stumpage, and increasing wages being paid the lumber workers, he blames the dearth of sales to the plain inability of the average man to pay for the lumber he needs . . . and therefore he does without.

We're not prepared to agree with Mr. Sprague that the price of lumber is out of joint with the price of other necessities. We'll agree we can't afford to build right now, but that's just one of a large number of things we can't afford—all of them necessities. We wouldn't quite know how to act if we felt we could afford to buy some lumber.

Rather, we think the lag in lumber sales can be attributed to the dislocation of an economy in which no one knows what will happen—or what did happen, as far as that goes.

Lumber is a primary product, the great basic product in our basic industry, construction. With a truce in Korea which no one quite trusts, and with our National Government unable to make permanent plans because of the tenuous quality of that peace, we think it's natural for the Nation's builders to pull in their belts and look sideways a couple of times before embarking on any new building programs.

Such a condition can not, and will not last long. The transition from war time to peacetime economy is going to throw heavy emphasis on new construction at home. And the plywood and lumber business is bound to revive under the stimulus of such a program.

Construction is the largest and the most vital of our Nation's industry. No business so inextricably bound to our economy as the lumber business is can remain long depressed. —WGP.

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**For What It's Worth**

By CLIFFORD P. ROWE

Right at this moment, I believe that if I had my choice as to an epitaph to grace my final resting



place, I would ask nothing better than "Very few people agreed with him all of the time, but even those who differed held that he was honest and fair."

Such has been the general summing up of the eulogies

spoken and written relative to Senator Robert Taft following his death. Even those who cursed him while alive and flayed him in the public print because they differed with him on issues of public interest were the first to proclaim that he was a worthy opponent and an honest antagonist.

To take a stand on the popular side of the fence in a controversy is a powerful temptation for any man, particularly if he be in politics where his future depends on support of the majority. To stand for a principle which in the heat of argument can be twisted by opponents until it has little resemblance to the original intention, calls for intestinal fortitude granted to but very few public servants.

The reward, of course, comes eventually to those who take the risk of momentary public censure to hold firm to that which they consider to be the honest course. Firm believers in the process of democracy, they are confident in their faith in the American mind. They are well aware that popular opinion is a condition of the moment which, swayed by personal interest on the part of the individual, usually changes its complexion many times before the innate honesty of man makes the final evaluation.

It all depends on whether a man wants to be thought well of today or tomorrow. Too many are concerned only with today. To make their lives a bed of roses without the thorns, they will agree with the devil himself. The irony of it all is that even those for whom they sacrifice their very souls, in order to be in agreement, fail to hold them in high esteem. The devil does not share his throne with anyone.

In these trying times, as in all trying times, the man without a stand is of little value to a democracy which depends on two sides to any issue.

**ROTARY NEWS**

The program at the Rotary luncheon Tuesday noon was started off with several musical selections very nicely rendered by Larry and Connie Myers, nephew and niece of Rotarian Leo Lucas.

Luther Tisdale, a former member of the club told the group of the improvements now being made at Harris Park. An area of 1½ acres will contain two units, one for trailers and 27 camping units grouped around a central building which will contain showers, laundry facilities and rest rooms. Electricity will be available and each unit will provide for cooking. A charge yet to be determined will be made.

Luther then gave the Rotarians and guests a very helpful and constructive talk on making Brookings a friendly city for the many tourists who pass this way each year.

He spoke of the tourist as our neighbors away from home, who want to be neighborly if given a chance. By being interested in

him and his home town, he becomes interested in us and our town and the many attractions all around us.

Lynn Hampton, club secretary was back again after being with the Ashland Rotarians for five weeks. He was fined by the Ashland club for boasting for Brookings lilies and the Brookings lily parade. He reported that the Ashland people enjoyed the lilies sent over by George Funk.

**ROY KINCH CAR BUMPED**

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Kinch received some damage to their car the first of the week when they

and a log truck found the road too narrow up river.

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