

Future looking brighter for depressed Oregon timber industry

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Bob Anderson, director of marketing for the American Plywood Association, is not quite as optimistic. He is estimating about 1.4 million housing starts for 1981. But he is optimistic. He adds another reason why things will improve.

"I'm optimistic about the new administration," says Anderson. "I feel Mr. Reagan will use his first 100 days very effectively to create confidence among the public. I foresee cuts in government spending, tax reductions and positive steps toward getting action by Congress. These will all invite a reduction in inflationary expectations."

While most economists are saying home buyers will have to live with mortgage rates at 12 or 13 percent, Anderson says they can come down if inflation is reduced. Mortgage loans can be held to two or three percent

above inflation, he says. So, if inflation can be held to five percent a year, we could see mortgage rates back down to seven or eight percent.

Housing starts have been stressed because they play a strong role in the well being of Oregon's forest industry. But there are other markets which keep mills going even when new housing construction slows. Industrial construction, remodeling and expansion of existing home, non-residential construction and export markets can all keep mills operating in slow periods and improve marketing during favorable periods.

The export market for lumber and plywood offers strong potential. As western producers of wood products are cut off from large eastern markets because of high transportation costs and competition from the southern forest industry and Canada, exports

offer a great opportunity. Recent meetings with the country of Japan show great hope that the Japanese may increase their use of North American lumber.

So as we struggle through the first six months of 1981 it is encouraging

to look forward at the second half and the years beyond and see a much brighter future for Oregon's forest industry. 1981 should see an additional 200,000 to 300,000 housing units over what was built in 1980.

NOTES ON FOLKS

EVERETT'S THIRD SON DELIVERED AT HOME

Janice and Gary Everett of Keasey Route are the proud parents of a baby boy, Charles Ethan Everett, born early in the morning of Friday, Feb. 6.

Charles, who weighed 6 lbs., 12 oz. at birth, was delivered at home by his parents. Although the Everetts didn't plan on delivering him themselves, they were forced to when their doctor couldn't make it to them on time. Mother and child are both fine and the doctor says Gary did an admirable job of delivering their third son. Congratulations all around!

NEILL RE-ENLISTS

Jeff Neill, who until recently worked for his aunt and uncle, Sarah and Gary, Wildhaber, at Mike's Tavern, decided civilian life isn't for him. Effective Feb. 26, 1981 Jeff will have re-enlisted in the US Navy.

Originally discharged in Oct. 1977, Jeff was trained as a machinist and will return to this trade when he arrives at his first duty station.

Jeff tells us that he will be shore stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, for the next two years, and he invites any Vernonians vacationing in Hawaii to visit him there.

Gulka to speak to Vernonia SDA's

by R. Maycock

Mitchell Gulka will be the speaker at the Vernonia Seventh-day Adventist Church this coming Saturday. Gulka, who is the District Publishing Director for the North Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists, recently worked in

Foursquare

Happenings

by Sandy Welch

Sunday, Feb. 15, at 11 am, the Vernonia Foursquare Church will be privileged to have Reverend and Mrs. Bill Mouer share with the church in a ministry of music and from the Word.

Rev. Mouer is the assistant pastor of Portland Foursquare and his wife, Opal, is also on staff there. Not only does Reverend Mouer play the piano in a beautiful manner, but he also plays a steel guitar quite skillfully.

The church wishes to invite you to come and enjoy the Mouer's ministry.

EPISCOPAL SERVICE SUNDAY

Fr. Lincoln Eng will be conducting an Episcopal service and communion at 1:30 on Sunday, February 15. The service will be at the Christian Church and will be followed by a potluck dinner. The St. Bart's Singers will again be providing music for the service.

One item that will be discussed at the potluck dinner will be the possible acquisition of property or a building in Vernonia so the group will have a permanent home.

Vernonia for a week, sharing literature. During that time he held a drawing at the Vernonia Market Place for a free Bible; about one hundred and fifty-five people responded. Mrs. Shirley of Vernonia won the drawing and since she is a Roman Catholic, Gulka made a special trip to Portland to get her a Catholic Bible.

Gulka will be bringing a group of literature evangelists to the Vernonia Adventist Church this Saturday, and they will conduct a special service. A warm welcome is extended to those who have become acquainted with Mr. Gulka, as well as to any who might be interested.

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST SET

Saturday, Feb. 14, at 8 am the men will enjoy their monthly prayer breakfast at Vernonia Foursquare Church. One of the brothers of the church will share his testimony.

The breakfast, which costs \$2, is open to the public.

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