

## Smith-Wood Provides Largest Payroll In Coquille. Has Made Rapid Progress Since 1928

Above is a panoramic view of the plant and general operations of the Smith-Wood-Products on the Coquille River at Coquille. A similar view 10 years ago at the same angle did not show one-half the industry as you see here. Note the well-kept buildings and grounds.

### Improved Markets Indicate Big Year For Smith Wood-Products Plant Here in 1939

This month will end a decade of operation in Coquille for Smith-Wood Products, Inc. This period in retrospect reflects a development and progress unsurpassed by any other operating lumber mill in the entire northwest.

Commencing with the purchase of a small Port Orford cedar and battery separator plant in 1928 that was operating on the present site at that time, Smith-Wood Products has grown from a small mill operation that it was here, employing a hundred or more men, into a major industry of Coos county and the largest, most consistent of the economic livelihoods of Coquille. This firm, employing at times nearly 1600 men in the mill and in the forests in order to carry on its operations and regularly has 750 working in the plant which is only two blocks from the business section of the city.

As Smith-Wood has grown, Coquille has grown and more homes have been built here and new businesses have started and new business buildings have been built as a result of this aggressive industry right in our city. So, that the big gain in population of Coquille has been due chiefly to this large plant which has continually added new departments that always have required more labor, giving the city more payroll.

And now with another year in the offing, predictions for the 1939 season seem brighter than at any time since June of 1937. More optimism on the eastern markets and better conditions abroad, particularly in England, have led to a sharp uptrend in construction which will without doubt result in full time and complete operation of the local mill to capacity in the coming year.

"We have several producing units in the mill," said R. A. Jeub, assistant general manager, but the apparent increase of business already on hand for the new year is not confined to any particular form of over-production. The uptrend is general," he continued. The principal manufacturing units in the plant include a cedar mill, venetian blind stock factory, cedar veneer and battery separator plant, fir mill, plywood plant and the retail yard.

The plywood mill has the largest number of men employed with about 225 in this department and it is working two shifts a day. The fir mill is producing 350,000 feet of lumber a day on a double shift which started early last summer. Other departments have been working on an approximate full time basis during the last six months when conditions took a turn for the better.

### New Additions At Plant This Year Not Extensive

Although additions to the Smith-Wood plant here have not been extensive during the past year, there have been some improvements and further investment that maintain the plant as the second largest lumber mill operation of the county (Coos Bay Lumber at Marshfield is regarded as slightly larger).

A new planer was installed in the planer shed and a timber sizer was placed in the fir mill so that timbers 14 in. x 24 in. can now be handled sized.

Two large loading sheds were constructed on the side next to the railroad siding which permits all weather loading for the company now. A 110 horsepower diesel engine was placed in use in another tow boat on the river which makes a total of three diesel tow boats, together with two gas tow boats.

Calling cards, 50 for \$1.00.

### Colorado Town Revives Ritual Of Log Burning

Palmer Lake, Colo.—Residents of this high-perched town on the great Divide celebrate their modern Christmas in an old-fashioned way, by burning the traditional yule log.

Each year the log is secretly cut, notched and tied with hempen cord, hidden among the trees and rocks awaiting the finder to whom goes the honor of dragging it into town.

Last year for the first time Palmer Lake burned its yule log in the town hall, where local firemen built a huge stone fireplace wide enough to accommodate a four-foot log. Previously the celebration was held in a private home where fewer guests could be accommodated.

The hunt for the yule log starts at one p. m., when all participants are summoned by a bugle to meet in front of the hall.

The yule log has a colorful history. In Scandinavia, where Thor, the god of thunder, was worshipped, great log fires were built along the rocky shores both at mid-summer and mid-winter in order to propitiate him for his rumbling wrath.

When the early fathers substituted the feast of the Nativity for that of Mithra, the Persian sun-god who was worshipped on December 25 in early

Rome, a different note crept in. Yuletide became a time for feuds to cease.

In England, before the Reformation, bringing in the yule log was an important part of the Christmas festivities. The community usually gathered in the hall of the lord of the manor, where the log was kindled with due ceremony and all partook in the wassail cup, a sweet cider flavored with fruit and spices.

### Labor Relations At Plant Have Been Peaceful, Harmonious

When Smith-Wood Products commenced operations in Coquille valley ten years ago, there were no unions or union problems involved in the operation of the plant. Up until 1936 there had never been any friction dispute or question between the management and the employees and a comparative high wage scale was paid all during that time. At no time has there been a dispute between labor and management as far as working conditions or wage scale is concerned.

The big trouble has been that Coquille has felt the repercussion locally of a nationwide labor struggle between two warring factions seeking dominance of labor as a block.

It was this strife which eventually led to the strike by C. I. O. pledges in the mill in September of 1937, those who refused to join the A. F. of L.

And now with nearly a year elapsed, since the National Labor Relations Board tried the case of the

sawmill union and the plywood union of the C. I. O. organization, there still seems to be nothing settled as far as a permanent bargaining agency in the mill is concerned. Although plywood members who struck were put back to work last June on ruling of the board, there has never been a certification to determine bargaining agency.

But in the labor rift that has occurred, although not due to any neglect or fault of the management, everything has been peaceful and harmonious and negotiations have been conducted reasonably and intelligently with a harmonious settlement ever in mind as an objective.

With another year in prospect, it is the conclusive opinion of all concerned that some kind of settlement and agreement be worked out.

### AMAZED SANTA CLAUS FINDS 33 STOCKINGS IN MARYLAND HOME!

LEONARDTOWN, MD.—No less than 33 stockings are hung by the chimney with care each Christmas eve at the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Sterling here.

The couple has 17 children, who with the grandchildren and in-laws add up to the grand total of 33.

Santa Claus can hardly see the fireplace for the stockings when he slides down the chimney. But he never fails

to fill them all. In the years since he started visiting the Sterling home, Santa has found that another called, the stork, also has the Sterling address in his book.

Each year there has been a "new addition" to the Sterling household, or in the homes of their children. As Santa's burden has become greater he has cheerfully risen to the needs and

found plenty of toys and other "goodies" to go around.

But he has to replenish his supply after each visit to the Sterling home.

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Friends for Their  
Patronage and  
Good Will  
During the Past Year  
and wish  
One and All

A Merry Christmas

and a

Happy New Year

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A Merry  
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