

Orford cedar used by the American military in their boat works, and veneer used by France, England, and Germany.

Things got even better for the Smith Wood Products company after 1933. In 1935, Smith Wood Products decided to tackle a new idea – plywood created from fir. Until the late 1920s, fir was considered garbage wood. Two years after the group picture was taken, those same workers shifted gears to become the first fir plywood mill south of the Columbia River, landing on the ground floor of what would prove to be a lucrative industry. By 1936, over four hun-

dred men and women were employed by Smith Wood Products.

Smith Wood Products was a part of the Coquille land and social-scape until 1946, when the corporation sold to Coos Bay Lumber for \$4 million dollars. Not a bad return for a \$50,000 start-up cost. Later, Coos Bay Lumber sold the mill to Georgia Pacific. After the Smith Wood Products sale, Ulett and Smith ran a mill in Sutherlin.

In 1951, Ulett returned to operate Coquille Plywood. His crew included many of those who worked for the old Smith Wood Products.

In his autobiography 'Chips and Sawdust', Ulett names some of those who worked for him along the river circa 1933. Maybe you'll remember some of these names, hopefully they'll spark some good memories for you. Ray Jeub served as assistant manager. Kenneth Lawrence ran the mill and yard. Dutch Clinton ran the woods operation. Ralph Taylor served as engineer.

Don McClellen assisted in running the factory. Howard Taylor headed the moldings division. Roy Barton was head electrician. Rudy Johnson oversaw the kiln. Roy Boober filed saws. Ernest Whereat

and Guy Kelley had charge of the machines. Art Chase, Hans Gisholt, Cliff Kern and Andy Hatcher worked in the yard and carpentry. Ernest Purvance, O.B. Harriman and Lud Scharfer ran the office. Ambrose Claudle ran the slicer. Margaret Purvance, Maxine and Marjorie Knight, "Fluffy" LeFavere, Margaret Belloni, Donna Dean Bosserman and Lena May Williams worked in the office. Minnie Kolkorst oversaw the women working in the battery separator department - at any time, 75 to 100 women worked in that department. Shorty Anderson was in charge of resaws.

