

Heppner Lumber Company Plant Modern In Every Department

Great gloom spread over the community on the morning of February 6, 1943, when it was realized that the plant of the Heppner Lumber company had been destroyed by fire. There was a war on and lumber was sorely needed as one of the essential materials. Of more immediate importance to Heppner, it was the most important payroll enterprise connected with

the life of the community, and with materials of all kinds entering into sawmill construction growing shorter daily grave doubt existed in the minds of many of the people about rebuilding the plant. It was reassuring, when on the following Thursday the Gazette Times carried a story announcing that the company would rebuild the mill as fast as a plant

could be assembled. And then started one of the toughest assignments a young man could draw when Orville Smith, vice president and general manager of the Heppner Lumber company, started casting about for the "makings" of a new plant. Asked how many miles he traveled in gathering the multifarious units and assembling them at the plant site, Smith said it

would be impossible to make an estimate, "but believe me, I did some traveling." Almost before the last sparks of the fire had died down, workmen began clearing away the debris in preparation for a new structure. As soon as it was determined what type of mill could, and would, be put in, timbers were assembled and shaped for the superstructure

and ere long there began to rise a new and more modern plant than the one reduced by flames. It took months of hard rustling on the part of Manager Smith and other members of the organization to pull together from widely separated points the machinery to make the type of mill desired, but eventually the job was accomplished and the people of the upper Willow creek valley once more heard the vibrant tone of the big whistle calling the men back to work.

New Units Added
Not content with a plant that would get by during the high pressure war days, the Heppner Lumber company has continued with its program of improvement, replacing units with newer, more modern equipment.

Pressure of demand for faster delivery of lumber in the later war days made it necessary to abandon the time-honored practice of open air curing in favor of the dry kiln method. This resulted in the construction of a new type Moore four-hole kiln which has a capacity of 1,750,000 feet per month. The addition of this unit not only made it possible to dry the output from the company's mill but has enabled the company to handle the output of smaller mills in the vicinity, as well as to run through a large quantity of lumber in transit from the Willamette valley points to the east.

New Machine Shop
Following construction of the dry kiln, the company put up a new machine shop, utilizing ground on the east side of the highway opposite the kiln. The building is 50 feet wide by 150 feet in length and has facilities for servicing all mill yard equipment, logging trucks and tractors. It includes a complete

backsmith shop, with lathes and other machines for handling about everything used about the yard. Bert Kane is foreman, Carl Whillock, assistant foreman, and Marion Hayden, machinist. Next big increase in the plant's facilities was the construction last spring of a 165 x 120 foot addition to the planing mill, giving that important division of the mill's operation an over-all floor space of 320 x 120 feet. Complete truss spans support the roof of the new section, permitting clear floor space for operation of the sawing and planing facilities.

Equipment in the planing mill includes two planer matchers; one moulder for detail work; one band resaw; one band rip saw; one circular rip saw; two cutoff saws; one dado machine, and various end trimmers. Olaf Robertson is planing mill superintendent; Tom Wells, box factory superintendent, and graders are Al Massey, Carl Johnson and Al Krog.

Capacity of the planing mill is 2,000,000 feet per month. The addition to the plant made it necessary for the railroad company to extend the loading siding to accommodate five cars.

New Boiler Installed
The most recent improvement has been the installation of a new 800 h.p. rated capacity water tube boiler and the replacing of the original two-pipe smoke stack arrangement with a gigantic smokestack 72 inches in diameter by 200 feet high. M. A. Roberts, contractor of Portland, completed installation of boiler and stack during December. With two standby boilers in addition to the new boiler it is possible to develop as much as 2,000 horsepower.

One-Man Carriage
Another recent installation was a new Filer & Stowell carriage. All working parts are operated by air developed through a Westinghouse compound compressor. This carriage replaced the old two-man rig. It is driven by a 12-inch steam shotgun feed. A new log stop and loader have also been installed. Don Evans and Ben Eberhard Jr. are the carriage operators; Lawrence Miles, sawyer, and William E. Davis, filer. The new equipment was put in by Charles Stout, mill superintendent. Daily capacity of the sawmill is expected to reach 60,000 feet per shift.

Many Logs Decked
Logs are delivered to the mill by contract loggers. Two camps are maintained in the Blue mountains, one by Afton Gayhart, the other by Irvin Lynch. Equipment consists of 10 logging trucks, four tractors, two loaders. The contractors keep their equipment rolling in the mountains as long as weather conditions permit and each fall, to beat a possible early snow that might abruptly end operations, efforts are doubled to pile up a big stock pile at the mill, as seen in the general mill picture. However, the current season to date has not stopped log hauling and the trucks are rolling down Main street in Heppner every day laden with the big pine sticks and a run of several weeks is assured if logging operations cease.

15-Year Supply
According to Manager Smith, the Heppner Lumber company timber holdings will last 15 years. They are located in Morrow, Umatilla and Grant counties. To get at some of the holdings has necessitated considerable road building and the company a few years ago built a 14-mile

stretch into the Jones prairie section in conjunction with the forest service Shaw creek road. Work on a seven-mile stretch is now underway from Sunflower Flat to Wall creek. The company has a road projected to run down Wall creek to Monument but at present is mainly interested in the Sunflower flat-Wall creek section.

The road crew, engaged in construction and maintenance, runs between 15 and 20 men under the supervision of Emery Moore. This number, added to 93 employees at the plant in Heppner, makes an average of 110 employees directly on the mill payroll. The total payroll is approximately \$40,000 per month.

The Heppner Lumber company is directly associated with the Bridal Veil Lumber & Box company and the Pendleton Lumber company. Orville Smith is vice president and general manager; Jack Halseth, general superintendent; Vivian Kane, bookkeeper, and Elsie Cole, assistant bookkeeper.

Smith Home At Kinzua Wedding Anniversary Scene

By Elsa M. Leathers

Open house on Tuesday from 4 to 9 p.m. was held at the Lud Smith home celebrating the 50th anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Smith. The beautiful white 3-tiered cake was served by Mrs. George Smith and Mrs. Herb Wright to over 100 guests from Fossil, Condon and Kinzua, also in the community. Bulova wrist watches were presented the couple by the guests.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Hadley and son and Miss Bee Morgan spent Christmas at Monument.

Mrs. Owen Leathers was visiting several days at Heppner with Mr. and Mrs. Carl McDaniel and at the Victor Lovgren ranch on Eight Mile during the vacation.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Miller and son spent Christmas at Milton and Freewater with Mrs. Miller's parents.

Mrs. Hattie Stevens and son Bob of Fossil visited at her daughter's, Mrs. Forest Graham's and Mike Coleman's, over Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Adams were consulting a doctor in The Dalles the first of the week.

Mrs. Chuck Elliott and Johnny Owses of The Dalles were visiting over Christmas at the home of their sister, Mrs. Warren Jobe.

Dennis Matthews and Norvin Adams went to Portland on Saturday for several days' vacation.

A new modern office is in the making for the plant superintendent and it is expected to be completed by the time the plant resumes work on January 5.

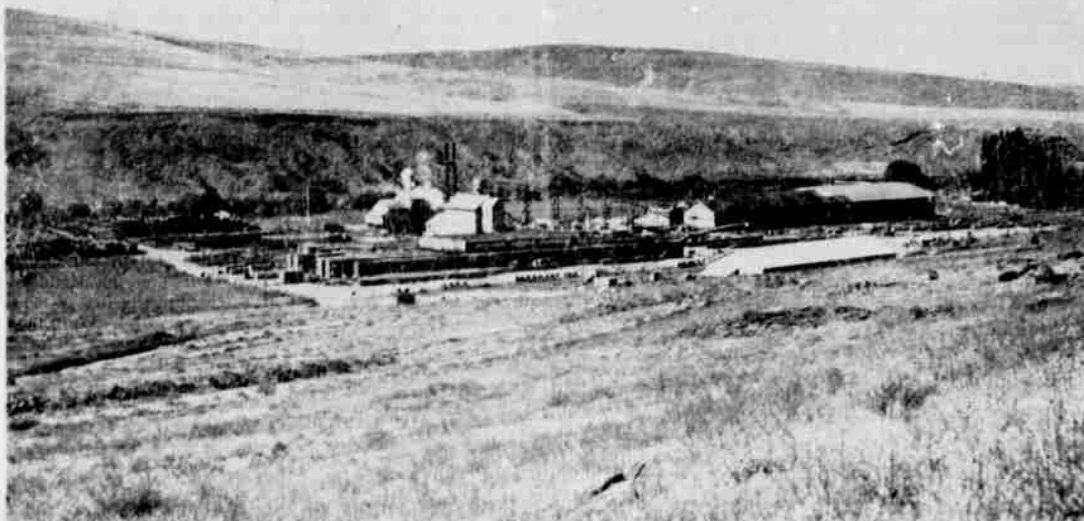
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Rood spent several days visiting at Stanfield and Pendleton. A sister of Mr. Rood's is visiting here several days before returning home to Stanfield.

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Sargent are visiting at the Ray Taylor home and hunting some geese and ducks.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom McCormick

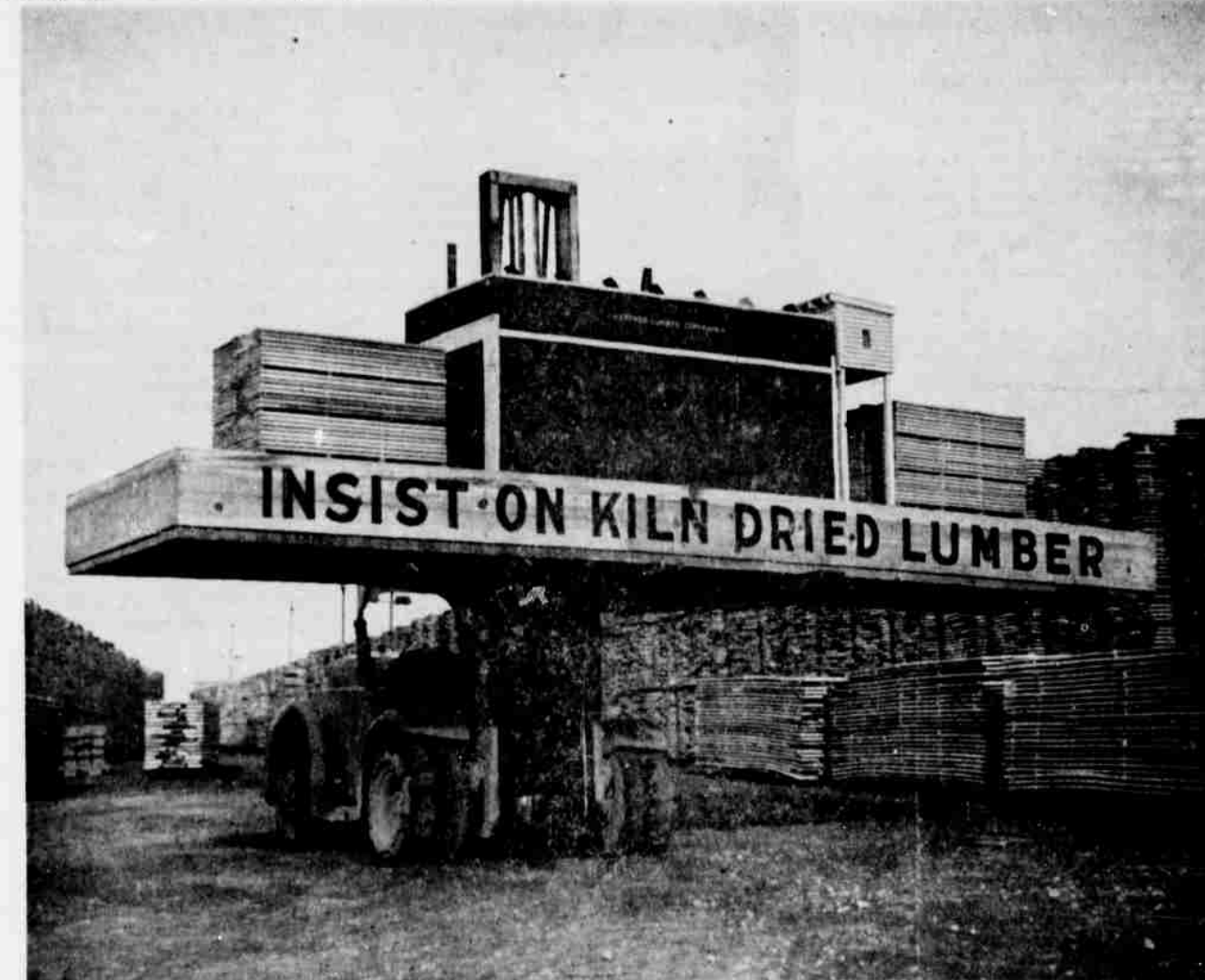
of Florence have been visiting here most of the week at the Forest Graham's and Mike Coleman's. F. M. Harrison and son went to Hermiston on Friday to visit his mother, Mrs. Clara Harrison, returning on Sunday.

Plant of the Heppner Lumber Company



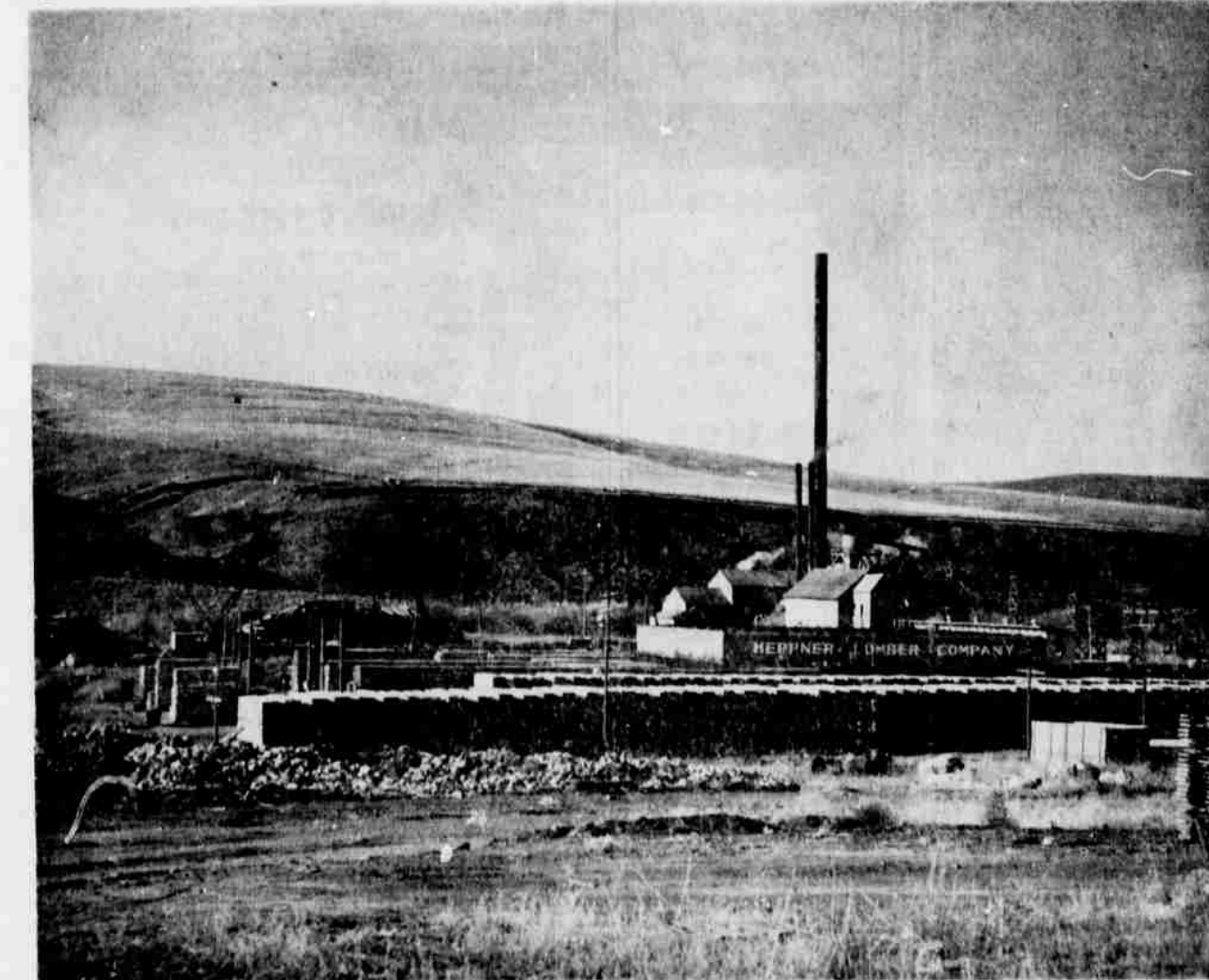
This view of the Heppner Lumber Company's plant shows the several units, including the sawmill, dry kiln, planing mill, office building, and machine shop, as well as the stock piles of logs built up to keep the plant in operation when weather prevents delivery of logs from the mountains. Principal output is pine, although other types of timber are run through the mill. Sawmill capacity is rated at 60,000 feet per shift. Besides handling the output of the mill, the dry kiln and planing mill service the output of other mills in the district, at present taking care of the scotsmeyer and Big Four cuttings.

Heppner Lumber Company's Dry Kiln in Miniature



In selecting this picture, the editor had three things in mind. First, to call attention to the Heppner Lumber company's dry kiln (the miniature was built to enter as a float in the 1947 Heppner Rodeo parade); second, to show the Hyster carrier in action, and third, to show the long rows of lumber piles as they come from the dry kiln or are piled ready to be run through the kiln. Norman Anderson is the dry kiln operator. William Barkla is the power plant engineer.

Gigantic Stack Replaces Twin Stacks at Heppner Mill



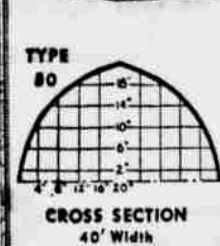
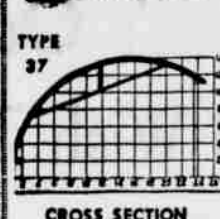
While the twin stacks have been removed, leaving the gigantic new stack to do the work of carrying off the smoke, the picture for miles before the plant proper comes into view. was taken in time to show the contrast between old and new.

FARMERS: Gravel That

before bad weather sets in
—Does away with mud, dust and deep ruts.
Plenty of crushed rock on hand.
Lexington Sand & Gravel Co.
Phone 4111 or 3311
Lexington Oregon

Attention! Mr. Farmer

Let us estimate cost of all types farm buildings. Buy Rilco Rafters and SAVE cost of construction.



RILCO FARM MACHINE SHEDS

Modern Rilco Machine Sheds are designed for flexibility. They are economical and easy to erect. Although designed primarily as machine sheds, they are adaptable to many other uses such as a farm shop, storage building, livestock shelter, or garage. The interior can be easily arranged or partitioned to fit any need.

Investigate these Rilco Buildings. Determine the type best adapted to your needs. We'll be glad to give you details on the Type 50 or Type 37 Machine Shed, and help you plan it.

BEAUTIFY YOUR WINDOW

By having me measure and install beautiful Venetian blinds—

Any Color Tape and Slets
O. M. YEAGER'S SERVICE STORE
Phone 2758 or 1483
Heppner, Oregon

A Happy New Year

We thank you for your courtesies in the past and hope our pleasant relations in business may extend on through the years to come.

To the people of Morrow County we extend greetings and the best of wishes for a prosperous New Year.

Gilliam & Bisbee