

Elizabeth Abrams graduates

Elizabeth A. Abrams, Heppner, was one of more than 1,200 University of Oregon students honored as candidates for degrees at the University's Summer Commencement held Saturday, August 13.

Miss Abrams graduates with a Bachelor's degree in English. UO Law School Professor and State Representative David B. Frohnmayer delivered the commencement address at the exercises.

Kinzua... keeps growing with the times

"Our goal has always been one of cooperation with all facets of the community and natural areas," Kinzua Corp. General Manager Allen Nistad told a group of 29 new county school teachers Monday.

Nistad presented a narrated slide introduction to the East Oregon timber industry during a county-wide tour for the teachers. After a full morning of sightseeing under the direction of County Extension Agent and part time tour guide, Harold Kerr, the group met for lunch at the Heppner Elementary School where Nistad informed them of

Kinzua activities both past and present.

"The whole approach of the logging industry has changed from the early years," Nistad said. "It used to be that the whole intent of the loggers was 'cut and git' and it was a traumatic experience for homesteaders to allow loggers onto their land."

"Loggers used to look only for the best trees to cut but now we look for the weak or diseased trees and leave the best ones in the forest," he said. "In this way, we're trying to genetically improve the grade of timber."

Nistad traced the development of the Kinzua Corp. back to 1909 when the first 50,000

acres of forest land were acquired by lumber men out of Warren Pa. He said the first deeds bear the seal of President Teddy Roosevelt.

The business has grown to encompass some 240,000 acres with 195,000 of those owned by the corporation and rented back to local ranchers. He said the present scale of operation makes Kinzua Corp. one of the largest privately owned lumber enterprises in the entire nation.

Along with Kinzua's growth has come an accompanying commitment towards conservation and management. Nistad explained the thinning techniques used by the loggers which increase the yield per acre by releasing the trees for added growth. He said emphasis is also placed on maintaining ground cover to prevent erosion and improve wildlife areas. Much of the grass seed planting is done by helicopter to insure as little human intervention in the natural areas as possible.

"It's been exciting to work with a company that is so interested and concerned with what's going around it," Nistad said.

The excitement level has seen a sharp increase in recent weeks with the approval of expansion plans which will add a new \$4.5 million saw mill by next spring. Nistad said saw mill technology is now experiencing a major breakthrough and the new system planned for Kinzua has only been adopted by a few other mills in the world.

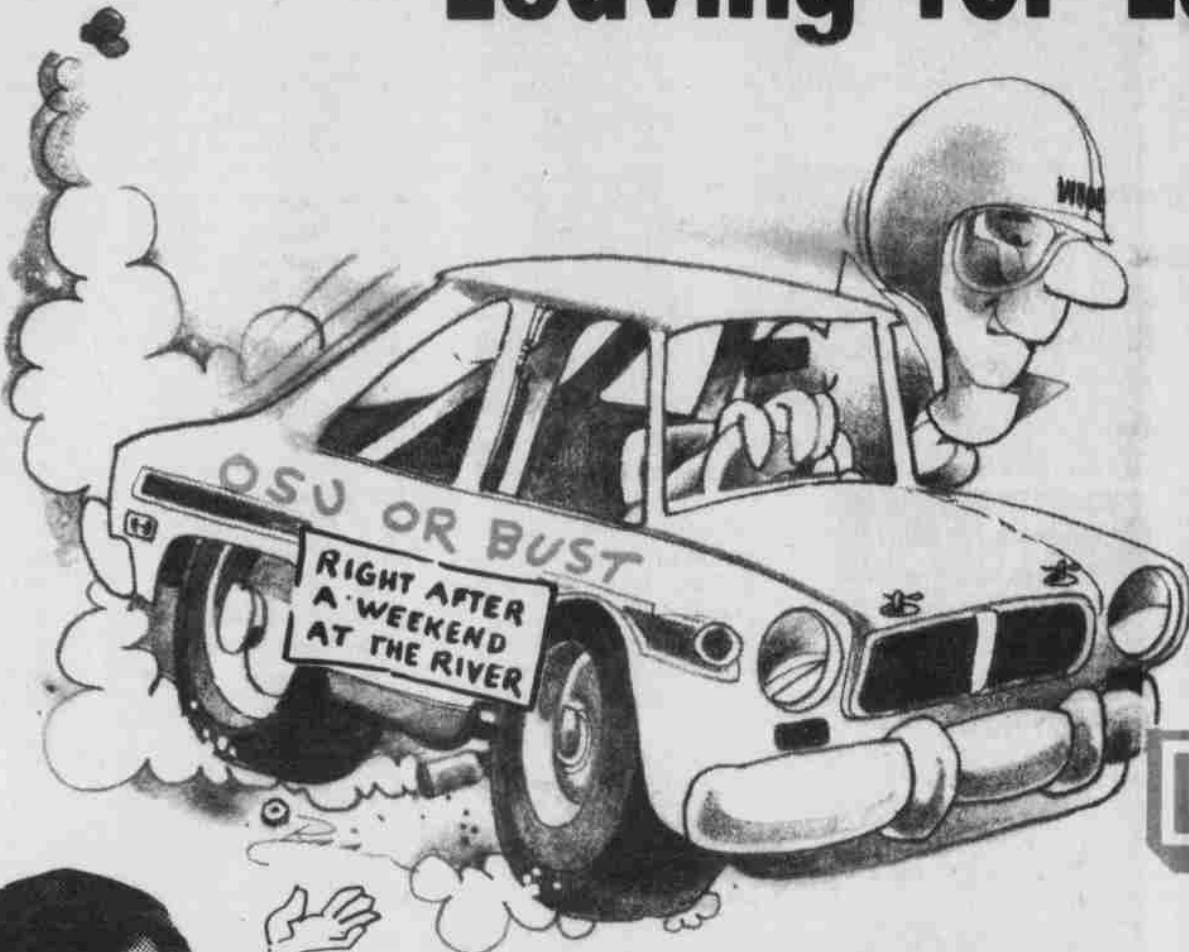
Nistad said the new system features a computerized scanner that surveys the logs and automatically adjusts the saw blades to derive the most efficient use of each log. He added that the advanced sorting machinery will greatly increase the flexibility of operations at the mill.

"Our people are walking around three feet off the ground in anticipation of the new mill," Nistad said.

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