

Non-Seasonal Industry Starts in Ashland

Lumber Company Makes Boats to Keep Key Workers

A small non-seasonal industry that utilizes wood materials has developed in Jackson county and may be the forerunner to similar diversified enterprises that would give the area added economic stability.

The White Fir Lumber company, Ashland, last September decided to provide work for key personnel, who logged during the summer, to keep them employed on an annual basis. As a result, the company is actively manufacturing boats.

The demand for boats has become so great that the original four-man operation has increased to 10 and now is being geared to a year-around scale. "The tail is now wagging the dog," as E. E. McLaughlin, firm manager, described the industry's growth.

Marketing Boats

Marketing the boats has been so successful in "taking up the slack" of the current lumber recession," according to company owners, the firm's saw mill will not have to operate this summer. Copartners in the lumber company are L. G. Wirz, C. E. Brownson and E. F. Burgess.

Community planners have long recognized the need for local "diversified industry" and year-around and off-season jobs to stabilize the area's economy.

Owners of White Fir think the industry is a step towards this end. Another advantage of the boat industry, they said, is that the use of local raw materials is encouraged. McLaughlin added that most materials for the boats, however, are imported from other areas.

Trade name for the local product is "Crater Crafts." McLaughlin said they are being marketed now at one retail outlet in both Medford and Ashland. Future dealers are planned in Klamath Falls, Rocky Point and at Lake of the Woods.

Illustrating the popularity of boats in this area, McLaughlin said if future dealers market the crafts as well as the two present ones, the company's production output would have to be doubled. "At any rate," he said, "the consumer demand for boats is bigger than the potential supply."

Three different models are manufactured by the lumber company. They include a flat-bottom "fisherman" model, the "V" bottom "fisherman deluxe," and the most expensive model, the "runabout." Custom models developed to individual specifications also are made, according to company officials. Two "fishermen" and one "runabout" is completed each day.

Costs of the boats range from \$125 for the 12-foot ready-to-paint "fisherman" to \$560 for the 16-foot mahogany-paneled "runabout." The three models also include 14-foot boats.

Profits from the sale of boats since last fall have totaled about \$12,000, McLaughlin said, which includes about 100 sales.

Prospects for the boat industry are "bright," according to McLaughlin. He noted that many lake resorts in southern Oregon now have fleets of what he described as "klunkers," which soon will have to be replaced with new crafts. There is every indication the company's boat operation will have to expand again, he added.

Materials for the boats include a marine plywood hull, douglas fir ribs, and aluminum and stainless steel stripping. Runabout models are equipped with mahogany decking. Windshields and other accessories are considered "extras," McLaughlin said. The deluxe and runabout models also are completely fiberglassed, he added.

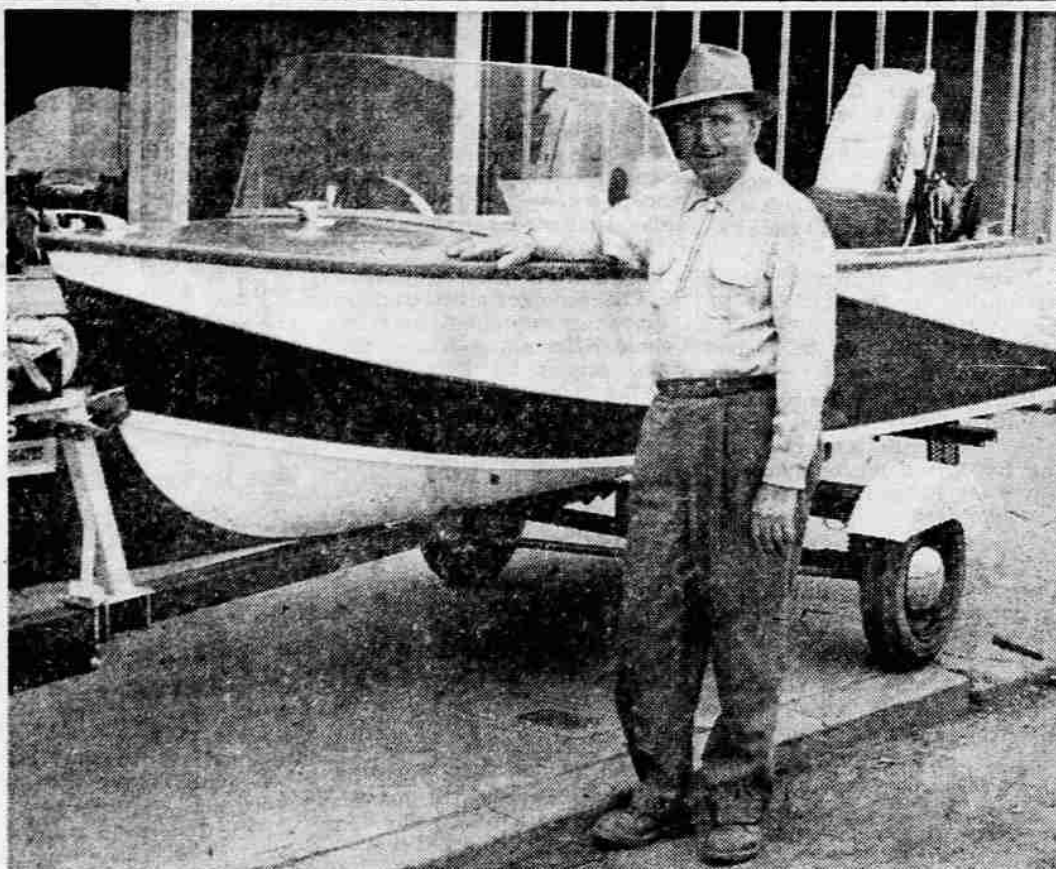
Plywood materials used in the boats are shipped to Ashland either from Stockton, Calif., Seattle, Wash., or Portland. Local materials are used only for minor parts, the firm manager said.

The two fisherman models are designed by Manual Surber, of the lumber company. The Western Plywood association, Tacoma, designs the runabouts.

Miss Webster Taking Week's Vacation

Following attendance last week at the Oregon Library association in Portland, Miss Helen Webster is taking a week's vacation to visit friends in Washington and Oregon.

She plans brief stays at the veterans administration hospital at American Lake, Wash., and at Montesano, Wash., where she was employed before coming to Medford as librarian of the Medford public and Jackson county libraries. She also plans to visit friends and relatives in Corvallis, Albany, and Forest Grove during her absence.



READY TO GO—E. E. McLaughlin, general manager of the Crater Craft boat factory in Ashland, stands beside one of the 14-foot "runabouts" ready for market. This model, which is complete with windshield, steering wheel and engine control quadrant, plus other marine hardware, sells for about \$325, less motor and trailer. The factory also makes a boat they call the "fisherman," which sells

for as little as \$125. Recently the company has been concentrating on building up a backlog of boats rather than trying to market them on a large scale, according to McLaughlin. At the present time they have 30 on hand. They have orders for 18 of the Fisherman models and are turning them out at the rate of two per day.



BOAT FRAMEWORK—Carl Surber, an employee of Crater Crafts, is shown above fitting a section of floor board filler in the framework of a 14-foot runabout under construction at the White Fir Lumber company, Ashland. The structural pieces are made of

douglas fir. Every day one runabout and two fisherman-type boats are turned out on the plant's production line. Ribs are cut from a pattern in mass production ahead of time and stored until they are needed.



FITS SEAT—Manual Surber, above, who designed several of the boats being made at the Crater Craft plant in Ashland, is one of 10 skilled craftsmen employed by the firm. He is shown above fitting a seat in a hull of a standard runabout. The inside of the boats are finished in a weather-resistant multi-hue paint and the decks are lacquered mahogany. According to E. E. McLaughlin, plant manager, the consumer demand for boats in southern Oregon is larger than the supply.



SANDING HULL—Above, co-owners Eldo Burgess and Leonard Wirz, are shown sanding the marine plywood hull of a 14-foot runabout being built in the Crater Craft boat factory in Ashland. The wood is finished to smoothness and all flaws are filled with a special hard bond wood filler before hulls are covered with fiberglass.

Port of Portland Man To Represent Oregon

Washington—U.P.—Rep. Overton Brooks (D-La.) Friday appointed W. L. Williams, president of the Port of Portland,

to represent Oregon on the resolutions committee of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress. The Congress will meet in Washington May 16.

Holmes Takes Steps To Remove Oregon From Northwest Governors' Power Policy Group

Salem—U.P.—Gov. Robert D. Holmes says he is bringing an abrupt stop to a program through which, he said, Oregon's two previous Republican governors had contributed nearly \$8,000 of state funds for promotion of so-called "partnership" power development.

The action removed Oregon from the Pacific Northwest Governor's Power Policy Committee, which Gov. Holmes called an arm of the private power lobby.

Gov. Holmes said that unapproved reports of the committee's technical engineers had been used recently to support the position of Idaho Power Co. in the Hells Canyon controversy.

Payments Authorized

Gov. Holmes said the records showed that the late Gov. Paul Patterson, under whose administration Oregon joined the power policy committee, and Gov. Elmo Smith had authorized payments from the executive department funds to Portland General Electric Co. totaling \$7,577.63.

He said the case had been under investigation since he took office Jan. 14 and during that time he felt a moral obligation to authorize continuation of monthly payments although no contract existed.

PGE Takes Exception

Immediate exception to this statement was taken by Estes Snedecor Jr., tax agent and legislative representative for Portland General Electric.

"PGE merely has been acting as a fiscal clearing house for the governors' policy committee," Snedecor said.

"We have collected the money from all the participants and paid the bills from that fund. We have not received one cent of compensation for ourselves, and we object to the inference that we have been paid money."

Oregon's share, which Gov. Holmes said was bigger by almost twice than any other contributor's, went into a fund for expenses of Ebasco Services, a private firm which actually

makes the studies for the committee. Gov. Holmes said Ebasco was "an arm of the private power lobby." And he said:

"Except for propaganda for partnership power, we could have gotten the same information supplied by Ebasco Services from the advance program of Bonneville Power Administration for nothing."

Compilations of billings for 1956 alone, Gov. Holmes said, showed members contributed more than \$20,000 of which "the major 15 per cent share was paid by Oregon taxpayers."

"This is a case, Gov. Holmes declared, "of state funds being contributed to further a cause in direct contradiction to what the taxpayers clearly demonstrated by their vote."

All Firms Said Contributors



CARL SKYRMAN
4-H Member of Month

Central Point Boy Named April's 4-H Member of Month

Carl Skyrman, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Skyrman, Central Point, is Jackson county 4-H club member of the month.

Carl is in his eighth year as a club member, and his interest has been primarily in forestry. In addition to his work in the forestry project itself, he has had a leading part as a junior leader in the Central Point 4-H forestry club.

He also has taken projects in electricity, poultry, sheep, dairy and outdoor cooking. During his years of 4-H club work, he has been president, vice president, reporter and secretary of his several project clubs, and this past year, was president of the Central Point Community 4-H club, which encompasses all 4-H clubs in the Central Point area. He has won five county fair championships with exhibits in forestry, sheep and outdoor cooking.

Training Younger Members

Carl has done a lot of work in training younger club members in forestry identification. He was a county medal winner in forestry identification from 1954 through 1956, and was on the state forestry judging championship team in 1953. In 1956 he also was awarded the county medal in the National Awards program for forestry.

Skyrman has taken an active part as a camp counselor at the 4-H summer camp, which is held at Lake of the Woods. In recognition for his work, he has been selected to attend camp again this year for his fifth year. Last year he was recognized for his leadership ability by being elected president of his house.

A senior at Crater High, he is a member of the track team in broad jumping and in pole vaulting. He has also been active on the journalism staff as a member of the FFA chapter and of the Sportsman's club at Crater High school.

Carl comes from a 4-H family. His father is a forestry leader and his mother is an outdoor cooking leader. His older sister, Mrs. Douglas Smith, was a club member for many years and is now a student at Oregon State college. Carl's younger brother, Wally, 11, is now an active 4-H club member. Carl plans to enter college this fall and hopes to major in forestry and forest products.

Ashland Woman Released After Hearing

Jean Ardith Starr, 37, of 54 Mountain ave., Ashland, was released Thursday afternoon after appearing in district court on a charge of uttering and publishing a false check.

District Judge James Main held that preliminary hearing failed to show sufficient evidence to hold her on the charge. She was arrested Tuesday by Ashland police.

The governor said that records showed that two reports, one of them never approved by the committee, had been used by the Pacific Northwest Power Co. in FPC hearings and before the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee to support arguments for Idaho Power's opposition to a high federal dam in Hells Canyon.

"This has in effect misleadingly lent the weight of northwest governors to the partnership program," Gov. Holmes said, "though the last meeting of the policy committee was held in October, 1955—over a year and a half ago."

Gov. Holmes said correspondence indicated that Gov. Patterson took on the 15 per cent share for the state with the intention of collecting parts of it from Oregon's public power groups and PUDS. But all the public utility districts except one, the governor said, "declined to contribute on the basis that the program held no possible benefit."

Snedecor said participants contributing to the fund included all private power companies in the Northwest. He said Idaho Power, Montana Power, Washington State Water Power, Puget Sound Power and Light, Pacific Power and Light, British Columbia Electric Co., PGE and Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co. of Canada, Ltd.,

VA Overpayments Due for Recovery, Officials Report

The veterans administration Saturday warned veterans and other beneficiaries under various laws that overpayment of benefits are subject to recovery by the government, according to S. T. Brannock, officer in charge, Medford.

These overpayments can be prevented by promptly reporting changes in income or dependency status, or interruptions of education and training, Brannock pointed out.

Incomplete Information

Usually, overpayments are made because veterans or other beneficiaries fail to furnish complete or accurate information. This obligates the VA to recover the money, and it often comes as a hardship to the recipient, Brannock said.

Ex-GI's attending school or on job or farm training under the GI Bill should make sure the monthly certificate required by the VA is accurately and completely filled out before they sign it. Special attention should be given attendance reports, Brannock said.

Changes Unreported

Overpayments to veterans receiving service-connected disability compensation are generally made because the veterans fail to report changes in marital status or in number of dependents. Prompt reports of divorce, remarriage or deaths enable VA to keep its records current and avoid overpayments.

Other persons receiving pension for non-service-connected disability, and widows of such veterans of World War I, World War II and the Korean Conflict may be overpaid if they fail to keep VA informed about their other income.

The law provides such pensions are payable only to veterans whose other income does not exceed \$1,400 if single, or \$2,700 if they have a wife or minor children, Brannock said.

had each been contributing one-ninth of 50 per cent.

Washington State Power Commission, Seattle and Tacoma each contributed 5 per cent; Idaho and Montana, each 7½ per cent; British Columbia, 5 per cent, and Oregon, 15 per cent.

Plumbing, Heating Conference Ends Saturday Evening

Oregon members of heating plumbing industries yesterday concluded their annual two-day conference at the Medford hotel.

The sessions were attended by wholesalers and manufacturers as well as members of the association.

Discussions Held

Discussion subjects included how to stimulate modernization of plumbing in existing buildings, technological advances in the plumbing industry, public relations, labor relations, merchandising and protection to public health provided by plumbing codes and the training of apprentices.

Special emphasis was given to such phases of the industries as stimulating remodeling and promotion of extra bathrooms.

Several Speakers

Speakers during the conference included Walter J. Widmer, Portland association president; Herbert Wait Sr., president, Oregon U.A. Pipe Trades council; Eric Hansen, Winston; Jack Webb, San Francisco, American Standard Radiator Corp.; Don Patton, Oregon plumbing inspector; W. O. Brown, Pacific coast district manager, Crane company; Wilbur S. Hokum, vice president, National Association of Plumbing Contractors; and Carl Rice, DeTemple company.

Welcome to Medford was extended to the group by Mayor John Snider. A 6:30 p.m. banquet at the Rogue Valley Country club climaxed the convention.

Foresters to Tour Hilts Fruit Plant

Siskiyou chapter, Society of American Foresters, will tour the Fruit Growers Supply company in Hilts, Calif., Friday, May 10, at 1:30 p.m.

In addition to the plant tour, the society will inspect the new access road from the plant into Hilts from the west.

Social hour will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the Bur-Bel resort on Highway 99, located a mile north of the Klamath River bridge. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. Speaker will be George Craig, secretary-manager of the Western Lumber Manufacturers association, whose topic will be "Observations on Wood Utilization."

Elks Association

Convention Scaled

Coos Bay—Schedule for the 1957 Oregon Elks association convention, to be held at Coos Bay May 30-June 1, has been completed, according to Howard Maple, general chairman.

The program will include sports events, such as trapshooting, bowling and men's and women's golf tournaments, as well as dances, dinners, style show, parade and drill team contests between business sessions and lodge meetings.

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