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Wood Industry Changing

Not too many years ago a lump of coal was a lump of coal, a barrel of oil was a barrel of oil, and a sack of sand was a sack of sand.

Now, increasingly, they are raw materials—for plastics, glass and ceramics, and a host of "new" materials obtained by breaking them down into their components, and reconstituting them as something else.

The business of taking something and making something else out of it is as old a mankind, and has a long and fascinating history. But in recent years it has given rise to a whole complex of new industries.

TODAY they're making plastics out of everything imaginable, and shaping it into materials which have a hundred-and-one specially tailored characteristics. Some are light and fluffy; others are pliable and transparent; others are as hard and tough as steel. Some are sensitive to heat; others are strongly heat resistant. They can be easily shaped and molded.

Oddly, wood is one of the basic raw materials which has been little used in this revolution in materials. Wood has been wood—except only for paper, cardboard, sawdust and a few other products.

Perhaps the reason for this is that wood has had such excellent characteristics of its own, and has always been in such widespread use, little thought has been given to giving it different forms.

RECENTLY, however, more thought has been given to the development of wood "substitutes"—the ersatz products of wartime Germany, for instance.

But so far has this gone that the substitutes are no longer substitutes—they are full-fledged competitors with wood. Masonry, glass, aluminum, steel and now plastics are standard building materials. And as this transpired, so the relative use of wood declined.

This change, much of it stimulated by the war, came to a head coincident with two other things—the so-called "hard money" policy, and the catching-up on the demand for housing also generated by the war. The combined result of the three was the "lumber slump" which has had so profound an effect on Oregon's economy the past year.

RECENT action to make more readily available housing credit may serve to offset the financial troubles of the housing (and thus the lumber) market.

By 1961 or 1962, housing demand will shoot up again, as the "crop of war babies" grows up.

These two reasons alone give promise of a prosperous long-range future for lumber.

Meanwhile, developments in the utilization of wood are moving at an accelerated pace. Long ignored, they have been speeded up by the present market troubles, and by the growing emphasis on the need to take advantage of each stick that comes out of the forest, and make it pay.

These will pay off some day.

FOR EXAMPLE:

An excellent grade of wax can be made from the bark of Douglas fir trees. No major firms have yet started to produce it, but the potential is there.

Industrial alcohol can be made from sawdust.

Chip-board and hardboard are growing rapidly, both in quality of product and in production volume. Veneers are being produced which can provide beautiful, hardwood interiors at a fraction of the cost of the solid native woods.

Other chemical applications, taking a leaf from the plastics producers' book, are coming along.

CONGRESSMAN CHARLES O. PORTER recently reported on experiments being made in producing a nylon-like fiber from lignin—the chemical which binds together the fibers of the natural wood, and which is removed chemically to make pulp.

Lignin has always posed a pollution problem, for in the past it has been a waste product, frequently dumped in the nearest river. But if it can be shown to have an economic importance of its own, it will provide two benefits, added income from the use of a once-wasted product, and decreasing pollution.

Some experimenters actually believe that lignin some day will be more valuable than the wood fibers.

THESE are only samples of the potentialities which lie ahead in the woods products field. Others await the experimenter's research and development.

And why are they important to us in southern Oregon?

Because about one-half or more of every dollar in circulation has its birth in our forest resources. It will continue to be one of the mainstays of our economy—providing the funds which circulate and buy the bread and shoes and automobiles and services on which we all depend, and through which we earn our livings.

There will always be need for lumber. But more and more we will see that the materials which are now left in the forest as slash, or which now go up in smoke in mill burners, will be of an importance equalling that of planks and studs.

THREE things are needed to provide a stable, prosperous and long term future for our forest industry. They are:

- 1. Sustained yield programs in government-owned forests and tree farm programs on private holdings to guarantee a perpetual supply.
2. Intensified research to find more and more ways that lumber and lumber products—all of them—can be used.
3. Capital investments to create the industries based on the other two.

And all three legs to this tripod are needed if we are to have any real hope of a secure future for this area in particular and Oregon in general.—E.A.



THAT WAS A PRETTY LOUD WHISTLE FOR A KID, WASN'T IT?

Matter of Fact By Stewart Alsop

THE UNCONSCIOUS SHIFT Washington—The public face which the Eisenhower administration presents to the world is more unchanging than that of any administration in recent history.

Yet behind the public face, the Eisenhower administration has been changing in a subtle but important way. One way to define the change is to say that, four years after his death, the late Sen. Robert A. Taft has at least ceased to have an important influence within the Administration.

The change within the Administration, in short, is less a conscious shifting to the left than a largely unconscious response to the realities of the world since 1952.

Also carrying administration endorsement are bills to re-establish state jurisdiction in the field of anti-subversive legislation. These bills—and other legislation opposed by the administration to prevent the Court from making any such "inference" about Federal preemption of any field of legislation—are "the next order of business" for the Senate Judiciary committee.

CONGRESSIONAL Wishes, Ability, to Slap Court Said Different Things By Congressional Quarterly Washington—(CQ)—What Congress will do to the Supreme Court and what some of its members would like to do are two very different things.

Chief Justice Earl Warren and his colleagues have been in hot water with some Congressmen since their unanimous 1954 decision outlawing racial segregation in public schools.

WITH the break-up of the four-in-H club, the voice of the late Senator in administration affairs is muted, if not wholly stifled. By contrast, the voice of Taft's great rival, former Governor of New York Thomas E. Dewey, is still loud at second hand, although Dewey himself is not often consulted these days.

Attorney General Herbert Brownell, a Dewey man from way back, is credited with persuading the President to make civil rights a down-the-line party issue in the current session of Congress, the most important domestic political decision of the second Eisenhower administration.

Press Secretary James Hagerly, another original Dewey man, has far more influence in the Administration than most press secretaries enjoy. And the President's special economic adviser, Gabriel Hauge, who was placed on the Eisenhower campaign to restrain as speech writer and economic specialist by Dewey, also enjoys an increasing influence.

ALMOST every important change in the Administration has seen a movement from the Taftian right to the Deweyite center, as in the case of Robert Anderson for Humphrey in the Treasury, Fred Seaton for Douglas McKay in Interior, and Marion Folsom for Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby in the Welfare Department.

Two House bills provide simply that lower courts "shall not be bound by any decision of the Supreme Court . . . which conflicts with the legal principle of adhering to prior decisions . . ."

The settling down process has had various aspects. For one thing, hardly anybody in the Administration talks about "The Eisenhower crusade" any more. The "Eisenhower train" (another phrase rarely used now) has dis-

Communications

Letters to the Editor must bear the name and address of the writer although under certain circumstances the use of a pen name or initials for publication is permissible. The Mail Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters with an eye to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words.

Search Group Needed

To the Editor: At this early date few people from this valley need to be reminded of the grim and horrible details concerning the disappearance of 5-year-old Cheryl Lee Johnston Saturday afternoon, and the discovery of her body in the Rogue river Monday noon.

I was in the search party for 24 hours, and many others had been there much longer. Strain and fatigue could be seen on the faces of every one there, but not one word of complaint was heard. Everyone there was concerned and eager to find the girl alive, but all in all it was the most unorganized and uncontrolled performance I have ever seen.

I ask you, the people of this valley, how many more of our children are going to die or be lost, and left to the elements before we do something about it? I say that now is the time to do something about it and the next time one of our children get lost. Perhaps if we had had a trained search group out there to organize the 2,000 volunteers Saturday night, Cheryl Lee would still be alive and Mrs. Johnston would not be faced with the grief she is now burdened with.

This is a plea to the people of this valley to get busy and organize a trained search group so we will be ready the next time something like this happens. Jesse F. Dressler Jr., Route 2, Box 465, Medford, Ore.

ation and of domestic political and economic requirements. One sometimes wonders, in deed, whether, if Taft had become President in 1952, and survived, the course of a Taft administration would have differed in any really basic way from the course of the Eisenhower administration.

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Congressional Wishes, Ability, to Slap Court Said Different Things

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POTLUCK (By M-T Staff and Contribution)

Do you know what is the "most democratic and ubiquitous food morsel of all time?"

The hotdog, that's what. At least that is what Daniel J. Edelman and Associates, a public relations firm representing the meat industry, tells us. The information is contained in a letter which proclaims July "National Hot Dog Month."

We kind of hate to be sucked in on such an obvious play for publicity, but we can't resist the frank approach used by Edelman and Associates, who write: "We trust you have sufficient respect for the red hot tradition and sufficient loyalty to the wienie way of life to take editorial cognizance of National Hot Dog Month. If you've derived

In the Day's News By FRANK JENKINS

Down Highway 99, the great north and south highway of the Pacific Coast, on the day before the Fourth of July, which this year falls on a Thursday—and that means that in happy America vast numbers of fortunate people in this most fortunate of nations will take the rest of the week as a long holiday.

Not just the great ones of the earth. Not merely the rulers. Not the captains of industry. Not the landed titled nobility. Not the average run of the people, who will be getting into THEIR OWN cars and taking off for the seashore, or the mountains, or the lakes, or the wide open spaces of the desert—wherever their fancy listeth.

This is AMERICA. The land of the free. No passports required. No police permission needed. Just get in the car, step on the starter and TAKE OFF.

WOULDN'T it be wonderful if the Founding Fathers, who laid the foundations upon which all this has been built, could come back and see it in all its splendor?

Maybe they are sitting somewhere Up Yonder, looking down on this land whose future they envisioned and regarding with satisfaction everything that has come to pass in the 181 years they drafted the Declaration of Independence and cut the original 13 little colonies loose from the Old World and thus set in motion all the processes that have resulted in the America of today.

I hope so. They are certainly entitled to that reward.

IF THE Founding Fathers really are sitting up there On High on this 181st anniversary of the eve of the Great Day on which they finally adopted the Declaration of Independence and started it all off—

If they have been following all that has happened in these 181 years, including the invention of the automobile and its development from a chugging little gas chariot that couldn't go fast enough to get into trouble to the whizzing demons of today—that if somebody permits his attention to stray even for a moment from the business of driving them—can run amuck and scatter death all over the place—

If they realize that the modern automobile can be restrained from scattering death and destruction on every side ONLY BY THE SKILL AND THE CARE of those who sit behind its wheel and guide it down the smooth and fast highways of this modern day—

WELL—

In that event—I think they would be pleased with the way such of their descendants as I have been able to see on this third day of July of the Year of Our Lord 1957 on U.S. Highway 99 in the states of Oregon and California have been handling the grave responsibility of driving their cars in reasonably heavy traffic.

There has been no wild passing in places where passing should never be attempted. No roaring around the other fellow on curves or when approaching the brow of a hill.

No tragic groups gathered at the scene of fatal accidents.

I SUPPOSE it has just happened that way at this particular time and on this particular great artery of traffic. I assume sadly that when the figures are all in the slaughter on America's highways on this holiday will have been about average.

But at least it does go to prove what CAN happen when—even for a brief space of time—drivers are uniformly careful, courteous, thoughtful and considerate of the rights of others.

tastebud titillation from the edible, we'd like to have you give it the words of appreciation it deserves. Frankly, we want the frank to get its due—with or without mustard."

And they get paid for this sort of thing, too! . . . A little girl, aged 5 or so, with big brown eyes, attended an evening baseball game at the fairgrounds field last week. She sat very quietly, watching the game. About midway through the third inning, she f a m i l i a r baseball "chatter" started rising from players on the field and in the dugouts, and the fans. The demure little girl broke her silence with a loud "SHUT UP!"

We have always been fond of cheese (even more so than hot dogs, alas) and welcomed an opportunity recently to tour a local cheese factory where blue-veined cheese, one of our favorites, is made.

We learned many interesting things, including the fact that cheese is one of the oldest known foods manufactured by men; that there are 28 basic types of cheese with enough variations to produce more than 400 separate varieties, and that all of them are made by approximately the same process, only the variable and controllable conditions being changed at one point or another in their manufacture to give each its own distinct quality.

We discovered, too, that cheese smells differently at different stages of manufacture, and that some of these smells are less pleasant than others. We have long thought the aroma of well-aged cheese is a delight, but we found that the sour-acid smell created in the earlier stages, when the curds are being separated from the whey, is something else again.

We also found that this particular sour-acid smell clings to the clothes, the hair, the pores of the skin, for hours. At least it did with us, and the lingering cheeses-and-whey odor almost spoiled for us a luncheon which ordinarily would have been greeted with enthusiasm—a lunch of dairy products. The blue cheese, the cheddar, the cottage cheese—even the milk and ice cream—seemed to take on a taste similar to the acid smell we couldn't get rid of.

It was days before we could look cheese in the face again, but we're now back to our normal, cheese-loving self again, we're happy to report. But we aren't going to tour a cheese factory again for a while.

A window in the law office of Sam Harbison and Gene Piazza was left open all night recently, and the following morning Sam walked into the office, intent on reading something, when suddenly he was startled by the flutter of flapping wings. Two pigeons had come in the window during the night, and had spent several hours there, judging by the evidence, which was sort of messy. You know how pigeons are.

We work in a labyrinth, here. We have both stairs and an elevator to the newsroom, and downstairs there are several ways of getting to each.

The paths of two news staff members, as a result of this and of differing temperaments, cross several times each day, as they use different routes between the newsroom and the street floor.

One, a long-time member of the staff who works at his desk most of the day, uses the stairs almost exclusively. The other, a younger man who pounds a beat each day, consistently rides the elevator.

As one journeys to the back shop and the other starts on his daily rounds, they leave their desks, which are about six feet apart, go their ways, then meet downstairs about halfway along the circulation department counter.

The senior of the two says he needs the exercise, and, besides, the stairs are faster. The younger feels he needs the rest he gets in the 10 to 20 seconds it takes to wait for and ride the elevator.

One of the most enjoyable things about the July 4th fireworks shows that the YMCA has put on the last two years is the good-natured horseplay between the firemen and policemen. Next year, though, we hope the red-underwear-wearing firemen win the tug-of-war, which they've lost twice. We've always wanted to see what a wet policeman looks like. We know what a wet fireman looks like.

Flight o' Time

Medford and Jackson County History from the files of The Mail Tribune 10, 20, 30 and 40 years ago.

10 YEARS AGO

July 7, 1947 (Monday) Gen. Ira Eaker, retired from the Army air force, and Gen. Carl Spaatz, present chief of the Army air corp., are fishing on the Rogue river today. From Arthur Perry's Ye Soudge Pot column: The first sign of winter showed up last week. Hand-picked stove wood was advertised for sale.

20 YEARS AGO

July 7, 1927 (Wednesday) City council adopts ordinances lightening regulation of carnivals, increasing minimum age for playing pinball machines and authorizing sale of \$50,000 in bonds for repair and reconstruction of paved streets. Charles L. MacDonald, local manager of Foster and Kleiser, elected commander of the Medford American legion post.

30 YEARS AGO

July 7, 1927 (Thursday) Palmer Investment Company of Chicago, largest individual growers of fruit in Rogue valley, purchases track on Southern Pacific right of way south of city. D. M. Little, government meteorologist, will take charge of the local weather bureau July 15.

40 YEARS AGO

July 7, 1917 (Saturday) C. M. Kidd, manager of the C. M. Kidd and company shoe house, 223 East Main st., purchases Dunlap-Ritter building on East Main st. From Local and Personal column: City Engineer Anspinger warns city property owners that grass must not be allowed to overhang on the sidewalks.

What's Your I.Q.?

Nine or ten correct is superior; seven or eight