

Good Lumber Outlook This Year Indicated

Fuller Utilization of Waste Products Needed to Cut Costs

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

Lumber outlook for 1959 is good, but fuller utilization of waste products is needed to cut costs, Jackson county lumbermen said.

A number of lumbermen interviewed were enthusiastic over the future for lumber during the new year. The majority of them thought establishment of at least one big pulp mill in this area would reduce operating costs by using raw materials which the mills cannot convert into lumber. However, there were some who disagreed strongly.

"It might look like a good year, but stumpage and logs cost so much that the picture won't improve greatly by any means," one lumberman remarked.

A sale for chip material in this area. It would make us happy to get chip material in a product which would enable us to break even."

"Mention a pulp mill in this area and people wrinkle their noses," the lumberman said. "Trouble is people might wrinkle their noses too far and we never will get a pulp mill in here."

"A pulp mill is one of the main keys to utilization of raw material," he said. "More such material is utilized the less the lumber industry will continue to smoke. Actually what is pollution? Nobody has been able to define it to my satisfaction."

Burn Material
"I'm forced to dump a lot of good chipable Douglas fir material into the burners. It pains me to have to do it. This material should be worth something in an economic sense."

To ship to the nearest pulp plant we would lose money for every car. I investigated the possibility of shipping fir pulp to Walla Walla, Wash. It would cost \$13 a unit. It costs \$15 a unit to ship to pulp mills in Springfield or Albany. Sawmills in those areas can ship chip material directly to the pulp plants."

"I do not believe that the present technology permits a pulp mill of even 100-ton capacity without serious pollution resulting to the Rogue river and damage to wonderful fishing. At the time the chamber study was made, it was decided our cue is to promote a mill in Roseburg or Klamath Falls or some other point where we could still ship our chips at a minimum freight charge. This way we would get the benefit of the mills without the pollution."

Mills will be established at Roseburg and Klamath Falls in the not far distant future, it was reported.

The lumber outlook is very good, the lumberman added. He predicted continued expansion in this area along the lines of more refinement of product. More dry lumber, more surfaced lumber and packaged lumber will be produced.

This same lumberman predicted establishment of at least two more plywood plants in this area. Elk lumber company plans to start construction of a green veneer plant some time in 1961. Douglas fir is the best wood for this purpose, it was explained.

There is more of this variety here than any other species, the lumberman said.

Predicts Good Year
Another lumberman predicted a "pretty good year" for 1959 in the lumber industry. Building stocks are up with housing the main usage for lumber.

"I hope I never see a pulp mill in this valley," this lumberman said. "A pulp mill in the Roseburg area would help Jackson county sawmills since they could get good freight rates for shipping chip material."

"However, since such material would have to cross the California line to reach Klamath Falls, a mill there would not be so good," he said. "In-ster rates would make such shipment too costly."

One large lumber manufacturer said he thought the industry is generally optimistic. A pulp mill would help the industry of this county considerably, he said. Pulp manufacturers will find a way to cut pollution economically eventually, he added. A filtering plant takes a lot of water.

It would take more than

one mill to take care of all the waste produced in this area, he said. It is not a question of whether raw product is here, he said. Surveys show ample material for pulp is here.

Another lumber manufacturer said the lumber business is picking up and forecasts "a pretty fair year." Many new homes are being built, he said. However, stumpage prices and log prices are still high.

A firm which produces manufactured lumber also predicts a good year. Some of this firm's customers are increasing inventories.

Nationally, the lumber industry recovered from the 1958 recession in mid-year and the forest industry of this state regained its status as a billion-dollar contributor to Oregon's economy.

In Douglas Fir Region
Lumber production in the Douglas fir region, at just under 8 billion board feet dipped to about 1.5 per cent. However, prices average several dollars higher, inventories were cut by a small increase in sales volume, and at year's end mills had a bigger order file and smaller stocks on hand than a year ago.

Plywood production has climbed 13.6 per cent to a record 6.2 billion square feet in Oregon. This makes the 12th continuous year of uninterrupted expansion for this phase of the Oregon forest industry, according to reports from the industry.

Plywood brought better prices most of the year, especially in the third quarter. Then a market upsurge carried prices as much as \$18 from the year's low and plywood plants produced overtime to meet the demand.

More Jobs Created
More jobs were created and value added to forest products during 1958 with expansion of re-manufactured lumber and plywood into various building materials. Larger growth is expected in this phase of the industry. Basic output of pulp and paper plants will probably be converted into cartons and other finished products, industry spokesmen predict.

The state's 1958 log harvest was estimated at 7½ billion

feet, down about one-fourth billion feet from 1957, according to statistics from the industry. Logging operations moved from a low to a near-record level in the fall.

Rogue River National forest sold 178 million board feet of timber during 1958, compared to 107 million board feet of timber for the previous year for an increase of 71 million board feet, according to Carroll Brown, supervisor of Rogue River National forest.

BLM Sales
Bureau of land management sold 197,934,000 board feet of timber during the 1958 calendar year compared to 113,612,000 board feet during the previous year, an increase of 84,322,000 board feet, according to BLM officials.

This is in keeping with the state trend which saw record sales of government timber. National forest timber sold for harvest just about doubled when government timber agencies responded to the cries of the log-hungry mill operators.

Architect Finds Tooth, Uranium

Wareton, N.J.—(UPI)—An architect digging a foundation for a new home here found a shark's tooth about 100 to 150 million years old — and uranium.

When Russel J. Horner, 47-year-old architect and construction engineer of Liberty Harbor, found the fossilized tooth, along with clam and oyster shells, also fossilized, he sent them to the archeology department at Rutgers University.

He also sent along a specimen of rock to the American Smelting and Refining Co. at Perth Amboy for analysis.

It turned out to be uranium and the assay report indicated a rich deposit—the location of which Horner is now keeping secret.

RED-FACED POLICE
Los Angeles—(UPI)—Embarrassed police yesterday were looking for one of their prowlers that was stolen from the police headquarters parking lot.

Reference Books Added to Library During Past Year

More than 150 new reference books, including two 20-volume encyclopedias, have been added to the Jackson County library in the past year, according to Library Director Helen E. Webster.

About one-fourth of the library's budgeted funds for new books was utilized for these essential materials.

"With the addition of the new volumes the library will be able to do a quicker and better job of answering requests for information," the librarian said. "The demand for facts and statistics is increasing every day, and questions come in to headquarters from every part of Jackson county, and occasionally from other states."

Important Fields
Most of the important fields of human knowledge are covered in the central reference collection. Included among the new reference works are up-to-date yearbooks, directories, atlases, handbooks and encyclopedias.

Some of these are "The Abbreviator's Dictionary," and "The Encyclopedia of American Facts and Dates." Yearbooks and directories represented are "The Statesman's Yearbook," "The Encyclopedia Britannica Year Book," "Ayer's 1958 Directory of Newspapers and Periodicals," and "Polk's Medford City Directory, 1958."

Brief information on many topics can be found in several almanacs and "fact" books such as the "World Almanac," "Information Please Almanac," and the "Rapid Fact Finder."

Several new biographical aids are "Who's Who, 1958," "Who's Who in America, 1958-1959," "The International Who's Who, 1958," and the "Cyclopedia of World Authors."

Topical Concordance of the Bible," and "The Concise Encyclopedia of World History." Others are Monro's "Index to Reproductions of European Paintings," Brucker's "Subject Index to Poetry," and "The Musician's Guide."

Commonly Used
The most commonly used reference books and those of a general nature are available not only at the headquarters library but in the several community branches. Among them are the "World Almanac," "The Rapid Fact Finder," and "Lincoln's Library of Essential Information."

Branch libraries also have the "Consumer's Bulletin Annual," the "U. S. Government Organization Manual," "The Dictionary of Holidays," and "The Oregon Blue Book." Each community library is equipped with an atlas, a dictionary, and an encyclopedia, and most branches have indexes to quotations and anthologies of poetry.

The best reference service to an area such as Jackson

BACK SEAT DRIVING
Derby, England—(UPI)—Sidney Brown, 35, charged with speeding, told the court Friday that while driving he was having an argument with his wife. "I decided to put my foot down firmly and it went on the accelerator," he explained. The court fined him \$14.

county requires that the basic collection of factual materials be shelved in a central location and administered by a professionally qualified reference librarian.

Any resident of the county may consult them there or may telephone his request for information in to the headquarters library, where the services of Miss Joyce Marlin, assistant librarian in charge of reference work, are available to him.

Hatfield Approves Plant Industry Chief

Salem—(UPI)—Gov. Mark Hatfield Friday approved the appointment of Hugh Taylor, 62, as chief of the division of plant industry of the state agriculture department.

The appointment was recommended by Director Frank McKenyon, whom Taylor succeeds. Taylor has been an employee of the department since 1934 and has been assistant chief of the plant industry division since 1941.

CHANGES MIND
Newark, N. J.—(UPI)—Poet Carl Sandburg telephoned President Evald P. Lawson of Upsala College Friday to tell him he was ready to accept the honorary degree he turned down 10 years ago because he was too busy.

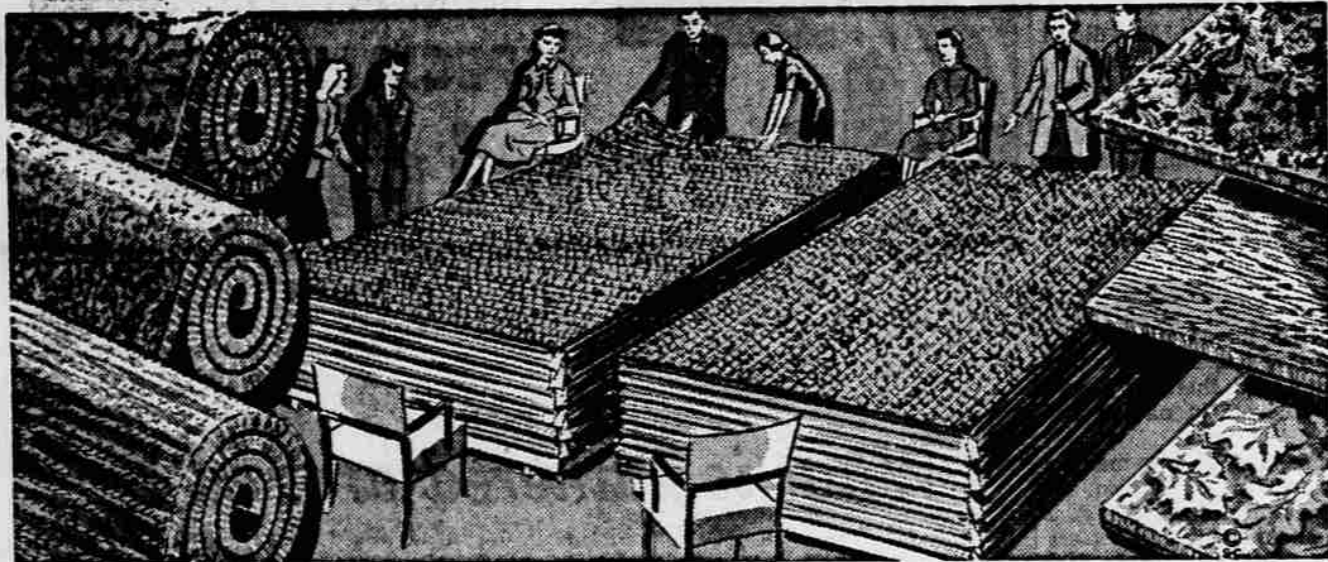
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