

Extensive Changes Completed at Kogap

Kogap Manufacturing company, a major producer of forest products in the Medford area, has recently completed extensive changes in its plant operation at an investment of about one quarter of a million dollars.

This investment is based upon the premise that a permanent operation in these days of high cost and fierce competition can only be maintained by continued improvement in operating efficiency and increased utilization of raw material.

Beneficial results of such a program are permanent employment for 150 men, continued bolstering of the local economy, the general development of local industry, and the continued participation in community projects that accompanies a successful enterprise.

Kogap is a locally owned and managed business which has been a leader in the concept of better utilization of forest resources. Its record of leadership in this regard is borne out by the fact that it was one of the first lumber plants in this area to install veneer equipment; it led the way in the production of a useful product, Multi-Bark, from waste bark; it was one of the first to convert wood waste to pulp chips; and it was the first lumber manufacturer in this area to end stamp its name on lumber for product identification, a standard procedure today in the industry.

Drastic Changes

During 1962, Kogap recognized the necessity of continuing to look into the future for further developments that would cope with the drastic changes that have occurred in the lumber and plywood markets. As a result, nearly \$250,000 was expended in modernization of the veneer plant and extensive remodeling of the gang sawmill.

Early in 1962, a complete reorganization of the lumber division took place which resulted in the permanent closure of the original sawmill built in 1946, which had reached a point of obsolescence in the modern concept of sawmilling. Discontinuance of old expensive methods in favor of new efficient methods coupled with installation of fast, high production equipment has placed this Kogap gangmill in a top position insofar as production, quality, and efficiency is concerned.

Kogap recognizes its responsibilities to the Jackson county community since by virtue of supplying employment directly to 150 employees, its influence both directly and indirectly in this respect involves a substantial portion of the population. Employees of Kogap have for many years contributed time, money, and effort to community projects.

Kogap also recognizes the challenge facing one industry with respect to the creation of smoke caused by the necessity for disposing of waste products. The company has been actively engaged in trying to solve this problem for several years. Such things as the elimination of one burner, experimentation and improvement of present burners, installation of chip machinery, and creation of Multi-Bark from waste bark, have all contributed to partial solving of this situation, and unfortunately the creation of new problems. Kogap is joining with other plants in the area to seek solutions by joint study with Oregon State university.

Woods Management

Turning to the woods, Kogap is following the same management policy started several years ago and recently being adopted by larger timber-owning mills as the latest word in proper management. This policy is one of careful selection of harvestable trees which allows for timber stand improvement and develops necessary roads for fire protection and continued management.

Approximately 8,500 acres of timberland in Jackson and Douglas counties are dedicated

to the certified tree farm program of the Industrial Forestry association, and are being managed by trained foresters the year around.

Copies of Booklets Available in Area

The Rogue Valley Hoo-Hoo club has made available free copies of the lumber industry booklets published by various organizations setting forth plans for building, remodeling and decorating with wood products.

Many grocery stores have copies of the West Coast Recipe books published by the West Coast Lumberman's association. Women are encouraged to ask for their free copy when they visit the grocery store during National Wood Products week.

Displays of all publications will be set up in the Medford banks and in other locations. Schools, doctors' offices and hospitals will receive copies of the booklet "The Story of West Coast Lumber."

TAX RATES

Lumber industries in Oregon pay taxes at the federal corporate income tax rate. This means 30 per cent of the first \$25,000 and 52 per cent of anything above that amount. State income tax rate is 6 per cent.

In addition to management of its own tax paying timber lands, Kogap obtains timber from government owned forests which comprise 75 per cent of Jackson county forest resources. In an average year, Kogap will pay approximately \$1 million to these government agencies for timber purchases and in so doing, contributes substantially in meeting the costs of roads, schools, recreation, and county government.

Few people in Jackson county realize the tremendous impact that the forest industries has upon the tax structure of the county. It is through the purchase of O and C and Forest Service timber by the industry, that substantial funds are made available to the county and, because of this, no tax for county government has been levied for the past several years.

Kogap products are sold all over the United States, and sales amounting to nearly \$5 million brings new money to Medford from outside sources to create additional economic activity in this area. Some typical approximately annual expenditures by Kogap would be \$1 million for payrolls; \$1 million for stumpage; \$40,000 for property taxes; \$1 1/2 million for contracts and supplies; \$12,000 for telephone; \$40,000 for electric power and \$750,000 for freight.



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