

OUT OF THE WOODS

By Jim Stevens

TREES ARE TWO BY FOURS
The easiest way to see the market at the two by four (2" x 4") and think what it means to you, your

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neighbor, everybody. This is true if you are thinking of the tree crop of the great national forest, or of trees on a large industrial tree farm, or of wood that's growing on the "back forty."

There's an old saying "One cannot see the forest because of the trees." There are 462 million forest acres in the United States, and about 139 million of them are the tree crops on millions of farms.

Study that for a minute, and you will agree that often one cannot see the forest because of the figures, either.

Even that wooded forty on the farm is only a scene of dark stems and green tops from a distance. In-

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side it the trees become individuals. Usually they are young, a growing crop. How is the crop to be managed to bring the most dollars per year with the least loss to the farm woodland unit?

This is the key question, the heart of the forest problem of the whole country, the question on the big industrial forest unit as on the farm woodland unit. To put it another way: how can we give and take at the same time in the timber?

Timber Crop in Town
One way is to take a trip to town and go through the yard of a retail lumber dealer. Stop by the bins or stacks of two by fours. See them as the young trees, the new crop on a back forty that was logged 60 years ago.

One bin of two by fours will be smooth and bright and show few knots. Another will have two by fours that are rough and tough, knotty and pitchy, bark often showing, white-pocket, and otherwise hard on the eyes. All of these blemishes are not to be found on every two by four in the bin, of course. But each has something that rates it as low grade.

Between the two bins are other grades of two by fours. See them as the trees back on the farm and one item of relationship after another will come to mind.

The first bin represents the best wood of the tallest, biggest and strongest trees in the woodland. Each of the other grades can be seen in the shapes of the differences in a stand of trees and in the differences of the wood in any single tree as they go from clean lower trunk to the top with its dense limbs, each branching from a "knot" in the trunk.

Other questions follow: how many of the larger trees can be taken from the woodland to yield the high grade of two by fours that bring the best price; how many of the poor trees in the woodland can be cleared out to yield lower grades, at prices above what such items as fuelwood and fenceposts will bring; and how much of all may be taken without injury to the remaining crop?

The wise forest owner of course looks even further, thinking of taking from the woodland in ways to give it more growing space for the crowded trees.

A trip through the lumber yard,

and all other markets for wood in town, will provide a new view and an important one, of trees as a money crop.

Car Stakes Are Trees.
Another view of the kind may be had along any railroad in the nation. Watch the freights roll by. More open cars of lumber are to be seen than ever before. Modern lumber handling machines will load a flat car in less than 30 minutes, and at many yards similar machines will unload the car in jigtime.

Lumber loaded by hand in boxcars is held in by the car's sides. Open cars of lumber need car stakes, and car stakes grow in trees. They can be made on the farm to better all round advantage than they can be sawed at high cost in the sawmill.

See the car stakes as trees on the farm, and see the trees in the woodland as traveling trees, each a flat-car stake. Thus, money grows in trees.

The more money that is seen in trees the more they will be valued.

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Mrs. Al Yankus and Ray, Mrs. Robert Veness and Shirley drove to Lyons Wednesday morning to visit and observe the kindergarten class which is under the direction of Mrs. Charles Power. The Mill City Parent-Teacher Assn. is planning to sponsor a kindergarten here in the fall.

Miss Zeta Prichard's second grade class, which won the recent room contest for the largest percentage of fathers at the PTA fathers night program, was given a party Thursday afternoon in the recreation room. Games were played and refreshments served. Mrs. John Muir and Mrs. Robert Veness were in charge. St. Patrick's day theme was used.

The junior class of the high school was given a wiener roast Monday evening at the outdoor fireplace of Mrs. Rosa Daly. Despite rain and threatening weather which soon cleared, a number came out. Mrs. Muir and Mrs. Veness were in charge with Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Rugh

as special guests.

To the Editor:

You can't stop my paper now. The events in the Canyon make your paper like a Western serial—each issue a little more exciting. Keep up your fearless editorials for the betterment of Mill City.

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