

Out of the Woods

By JIM STEVENS

OUR DOUGLAS FIR

The Douglas fir is the most important species of softwood tree on the face of the earth. This is due to technical properties which make it a prime wood for 700 and more assorted uses of importance and to its abundance.

This tree species is at its best west of the Cascades in Washington and Oregon on the lower coast of British Columbia and in the Northern coastal counties of California.

While the production of the six species of "Southern pine" exceeds that of Douglas fir, our king tree yields the largest annual harvest of wood from any single specific species in the United States. And it has a

giant volume of production in British Columbia. To the lumber trade "fir" means Douglas fir.

The main harvest of Douglas fir in Washington and Oregon is for lumber and plywood. However, in recent years there has been a growing use of fir for the manufacture of both bleached and unbleached sulphate (kraft) wood pulp. Out of this material is made wrapping paper, bags for your grocery store, and tough paper for packaging of such bulk commodities as cement and flour, and for fiberboard containers.

Kraft also goes into the manufacture of roofing and building papers used in the construction of homes. Pining and Lumber.

Many acres of tall straight young Douglas fir are harvested each year for service as utility poles, as piling for fish traps in Alaska and for

docks and wharves throughout the world. Most of the Douglas fir used for piling is treated under pressure with coal-tar creosote to lengthen its life in salt water, which will rot untreated wood even as it will rust unpainted steel.

The great service of Douglas fir, historically and today, is in lumber and lumber products. The large dimensioned, long timbers of Douglas fir have been exported to every country in the world for heavy construction of all kinds. As the supply of old-growth giant trees is replaced by smaller young trees, big timbers for big buildings are being made from layers of smaller pieces by application of glues or of metal timber connectors.

West of the Cascades there are two distinct classes of Douglas fir sawmills. One kind is commonly called the cargo or export mill. The cargo mill is located on tidewater on Puget Sound, Grays and Willapa Harbors, the Columbia River, and the bays of the Oregon Coast.

The cargo mills produce large quantities of rough timbers. Most of their output is shipped green to domestic market by way of coastwise vessels and intercoastal through the Panama Canal and to foreign market over the Seven Seas.

The other distinct type of Douglas fir sawmill is the inland operation, or "rail mill," which dries and finishes a much greater proportion of its products. This type of operation ships its products mostly by railroad.

The key to the separate characters of these two types of operation in the same geographical region is in the fact that the freight rates for ocean shipments are based on cubage while freight rates are determined on weight. Green lumber costs more than dry per foot for shipping by rail but costs no more when shipped by water.

Peeler Fir Logs.....

The Douglas fir plywood industry takes the highest grade logs from the old-growth forests for face stock of the 4x6' and 4x8' panels of plywood ranging from 3/4" to 1" in thickness. The interior plys and core of most Douglas fir plywood is made from fir logs which do not have the deep clear stock required for face material.

As logging climbs into higher and higher country in the aged stands, the trees become slimmer. This means that the kind of face stock now required by the plywood industry is steadily contracting.

However, as the supply of "fat trees" has lightened, the plywood industry has driven its research toward new and improved makeup techniques which put short pieces of clear material to work in the manufacture of acceptable plywood.

The plywood industry used to sell the cores from the rotary peeling of big, fat logs for domestic fuel. Today the trend is toward using the core for peeling on a smaller lathe to produce core stock and some of the plywood plants are converting their cores into dimension lumber.

The Douglas fir grows on in importance in the wood markets of the world, even as its young forests are growing on 8,700,000 acres of western Oregon and Washington land.

Detroit

By MRS. J. A. WRIGHT

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Byrkit returned Sunday from a ten day fishing trip at Winchester Bay where they caught some nice fish.

Mrs. Louise Taylor of Lebanon, and Mrs. Keith Miller and Mrs. Joyce Lambert of Seio visited at the A. M. Hendrickson home on Tuesday.

The Fraternal order of Eagles, Santiam Aerie 2745 had a dinner at the Rod and Gun club hall on Wednesday evening. During the evening Grace Cross, six year old daughter of James Cross sang several numbers. President Ed Debolt gave a brief history of the Eagles lodge and its accomplishments from the time it was

started in 1898 up to the present.

Last Sunday the Willamette District meeting was held here at which time about 150 members were present including Jim Sim, zone director, Salem, W. S. Smalley, district director of McMinneville, Jim Griffin, worthy president, Salem Aerie, L. C. Bennett, worthy president, Mc Minneville Aerie, C. Martin, district secretary, Dallas and the ladies accompanying the visiting members were entertained by Mrs. Gale Fagan who is organizing the Auxilliary to the Santiam Aerie.

During the afternoon the following members were elected and initiated into the Santiam Aerie: Charles A. Burns, Clarence L. Niemier, Kenneth W. Harlan, Jesse W. Glasgow, De-

troit, D. G. Heness, Orville W. Hayward, Gates; Frank Haney, James B. Kesterson, Bud B. La Neave, Charles W. Mason, John Nelson, Dallas C. Strickler, Mill City, and Andrew J. Peters, Duane Thomason and Norman Thomason of Idanha.

The Eagles dance on Saturday, the 3rd, was attended by a fair crowd, the Detroiters playing.

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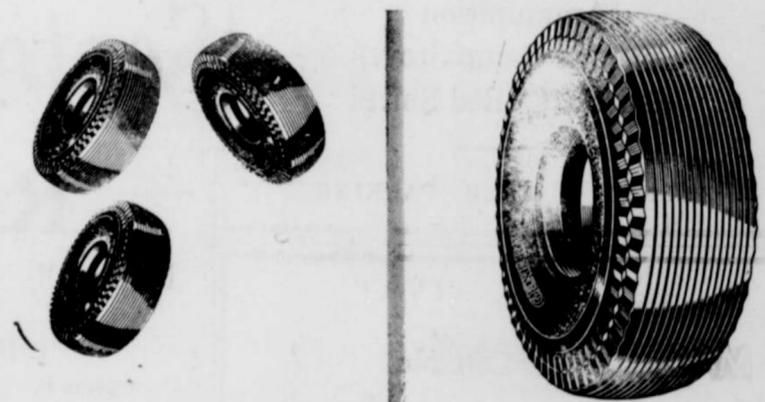
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