

# 'Hot Press' Assembly Line Turns Out Tailored Homes From Portland Factory

By ANN REED BURNS  
 PORTLAND, April 25 (AP)—Truckloads of sliced houses are rolling on highways hereabouts. They are helping to ease a critical housing shortage, and, their builders contend, may result in a multi-million dollar annual payroll here.

Prefabrication Engineering company, which turned out a house every 40 minutes for the Hanford, Wash., atom bomb project, opened a four-block-long "factory built house" plant there in March. Right now it's building a house a day. Eventual capacity will be 35 a day. The houses roll off an assembly line with the help of a locally-designed machine which the firm says is the first of its kind in the country.

It's a "hot press" which puts wall panels together, complete with studs and insulation, without any nails.

The operation resembles that of a housewife designing a dress. At the start of the assembly line, workmen cut plywood from a pattern into the size of the needed wall, drop it on a moving belt. Atop, they place dimension lumber studding, insulating material, glue, then another sheet of plywood.

**Wall Molded**  
 The belt travels to the hot press. In ten minutes, heat and pressure mold the whole thing into a wall which the federal housing administration says equals the strength and permanence of the ordinary wood construction of 2x4 studding, diagonal shiplap, drop siding, lath and plaster.

A floor is made in the same way. Only the roofs are nailed. After leaving the hot press, the walls are sanded. Other workmen add doors, millwork, install fixtures and pipes, paint, lay linoleum, and put a section of the house together. Actually the section is more like a slice, since it may end in mid-room. One section, for instance, has

homesite. There the sections are matched on a cement foundation. Outside painting—a leaden oil paint with asbestos fiber which gives a rough finish vaguely similar to stucco—is done on the site.

Houses now are being produced for a 240-house real estate development. They're modernistic-appearing, with almost flat roofs, lots of closets, lowered windows, and car-porche garages.

Another model is ready on the drawing boards. Future assembly lines will turn out packaged houses for shipment to the western states and Hawaii.

The company calls these "factory built houses." Ormond R. Bean, sales manager, says "Surveys over the country indicate a long-range demand, particularly among the groups who couldn't afford to have a house of the same size built in the traditional fashion. We anticipate a continuing market, even after the housing shortage ends."

The firm is headed by C. D. Johnson, former president of the West Coast Lumbermen's association and one of the state's largest lumber operators.

Johnson envisions the plant, at full capacity, providing a \$14,000,000 payroll.

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## Recreation Plan Pushed

Klamath Kiwanis club proceeded with its plans for developing a recreation center at Division and Reclamation streets, when President Charles Mack at yesterday's meeting appointed more members to the boys and girls committee in charge of the project.

The entire committee set-up now includes John Van Doren, Phil Hitchcock, Joe Hicks, Lester Offield, Ray Lamb, Tom O'Dwyer, Dick Maguire, Frank Drew, Joe Kessler, Russ Marshall, Gerald Murray, Glen Inman, Burge Mason Jr.

Speaker at the Thursday noon meeting was Winston Purvine, trade and industrial education supervisor of the state, who is here in connection with the new technical school to be set up at the Marine Barracks plant.

**TOUR**  
 PORTLAND, Ore., April 25 (AP)—A tour of lumber industries, including a visit to the Longview, Wash., area, was to start up the annual convention of the American Wood Preservers association today.

Business sessions concluded yesterday with election of A. J. Loom, Brainerd, Minn., as president. Dele-

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		Cute Soap Figures	.29c

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