

Expansion of Timber Refinement Industry Raises Many Problems

By HALE SCARBROUGH

Further refinement of timber products undoubtedly is one way in which the lumber industry can exert an increasing influence upon the economy of Klamath Falls and this area, but more is needed than a supply of lumber and fabricating machinery.

To go into remanufacturing (or any other business) and stay there, a mill must be able to turn out products competitively with mills in other localities making the same products, and it must have a market.

In both respects, Klamath Falls as a remanufacturing center may be at a disadvantage.

For one thing, wage scales are higher here than in certain other parts of the country where wood fabrication is done, and for another thing, the bulk of the market for products of wood is not here on the Pacific Coast. It is in the East and South. Shipping charges have to be considered.

Plants here engaged in a certain amount of remanufacturing are actively and continually having to compete with mills in the Mississippi river valley, and those mills, operating on cheaper labor and closer to the markets, set the prices to stay in competition, and have to cut corners, strive for greater efficiency and volume to stay in business.

There's almost nothing made of wood that couldn't be made here, if everything was right for it. But doing the work on a competitive basis and making enough profit to justify the work is another thing.

To get back to the beginning, in 1942 sawmills here in Klamath County cut 874,000,000 board feet of lumber, a terrific amount, and time production has gone down to where lumbermen figure a 330,000,000 board foot annual cut will be about par, and the employment is 3,600 men.

For some time past there has been a clamor to get "more man-hours per log"—do more refinement on lumber here and hence try to get back those jobs which disappear as one mill after another went out of business. In other words, more remanufacturing.

A certain amount of remanufacturing has long been done here: box making, moulding and the like. But to go still farther into that type endeavor only compounds the problems and hazards.

According to Western Pine Association, in 1950 (the last year for which such figures are available) 458 man hours in the woods were needed to produce 1,000 board feet, on a lumber tally basis, and processing that same 1,000 board feet in the plant, including planing, takes 7.5 man hours. These are average figures for Klamath County.

To get the total man-hour effort to set 1,000 board feet of surfaced

lumber is 12.08 man hours. Translated into dollars and cents that comes to about \$25 per thousand in labor costs. The industry's minimum wage in this area is about \$1.70 an hour, with various skills getting more.

A plant owner here in town whose shop doesn't go very far into detailed refinement work (makes windows, doors, mouldings, etc.) figures he doubles that labor cost and still the bulk of his product is shipped somewhere else for finishing. He figures his millwork at \$50 to the labor cost of a thousand board feet of lumber, so that when a particular thousand feet leaves his plant in the form of window frames it represents \$75 in accumulated labor costs alone from the time the original tree was cut in the woods. Machinery costs, materials, depreciation, taxes, profits are all on top of that.

If even a small amount of re-

manufacturing adds that much in payroll value, it would seem that even more intensive remanufacturing is just what Klamath Falls needs.

However, the more intensive the remanufacturing is the higher the costs and nearer the manufacturer comes to the point where he has to go into another phase of the business—selling.

The bulk of the product of the small mill mentioned above goes east to a large plant which does the finishing (painting, installing glass, etc.) and then puts the product on the market. That plant buys a large amount of the output of a number of smaller plants at one end, and on the other has a tremendous advertising and sales organization to dispose of the product.

That is the sort of thing a plant here going into the large-scale manufacture of finished products, would have to buck.

Another thing is that each successive step in the work costs more money. As equipment gets more detailed, its price goes up. To make economical use of high priced equipment, a huge volume of work through that machine is necessary and that brings up a third problem felt by remanufacturers locally.

Even right here where there is a tremendous timber cut still, there is not enough lumber of the type used in plants of the sort under discussion here to warrant great expansion.

Factory grades of lumber are used in remanufacturing here because, other grades go into construction, finishing, paneling and the like) and the percentage of that type of lumber in the output of a sawmill is not great. It's about 25 per cent of the log.

The same is a 11 remanufacturing plants here are on a sort of quota basis from suppliers and actually

a surprisingly large amount of lumber is brought in from outside (Redding, Medford, etc.) for working.

A local moulding plant, in its fourth year of operation, is just now beginning to get lumber on quota from local sawmills, and it still imports about 40 per cent of the million feet a year it uses.

In other words, the cut of local mills is pretty well spoken for, by other customers or by allied firms so that a new concern has a hard time edging in on the supply.

Other economic factors also hold down remanufacturing here.

Windows, for instance, take glass which is manufactured in the East and it is not a sound practice to pay freight on glass sent out here, install it in window frames and then ship the product back to where the market is. It is sounder just to ship the frames back to where the glass is in the first place.

The cost of labor here, while certainly a prime factor in wood-working, might be exaggerated in comparison with labor costs in other parts of the country. It is generally considered that labor here is more productive than labor in other sections where a lower wage scale prevails. More productivity helps balance off the higher cost.

However, all these factors—labor costs, lumber supply, freight costs, equipment costs, markets—have to be taken into consideration in a discussion of the wood-working potential of the Klamath Falls area.

The facts boil down to this: There is almost nothing made of wood that cannot be made here. But what can be produced in competition with other sections of the country and sold at a profit is something for the individual plant operator to decide for himself.



THIS CHARMING snow scene was snapped on the Oregon Tech campus here. The charmer is Dotta McIntosh, OTI switchboard operator. We don't know just what Dotta is attempting to do with the rope. As a matter of fact, we don't care. The important thing is that Dotta is there, rope or no rope.

Marines Rely On Draft

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Marine Corps, long proud of its reputation as a volunteer force of fighting men, is turning more and more to the draft. But the Navy still is able to fill its ranks without selective service aid.

This was revealed Friday in testimony before the House Armed Services Committee which is considering universal military training.

The Marine commandant, Lt. Gen. Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., said the corps has increased its draft request for the first six months of this year to 36,750. This compares with 31,248 Marines drafted during the last six months of 1951.

Vice Admiral Laurence T. DuBose, deputy chief of naval operations, said the Navy's present strength of 750,000 was reached entirely through volunteers.

Radio Takes College Study Into West Virginia Homes

By HERB LITTLE
CHARLESTON, W. Va.—Relax at home in your easy chair, switch on the radio, and go to college.

That implies much less work than actually is involved. Yet it is basically the way more than 100 southern West Virginia people are earning college credits.

They are students in the "Radio Classroom," a going educational concern established by Morris Harvey College and Radio Station WCHS.

The project was started the second semester in 1950 with a single course—Comparative Government.

Radio Classroom students register at the college just as they would for an on-campus course. They received a course outline, reading assignments, and a schedule or reports due.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Then each Friday night at 10 o'clock the students turned their radios to WCHS.

Morris Harvey faculty panel, usually of four members, discuss for 30 minutes the topic listed for the week in the course outline. Chairman of the lively five-and-a-half-hour sessions was Harry W. Brantley. He is WCHS director of public affairs and a part-time associate professor of economics and political science at Morris Harvey.

The Comparative Government course covered 18 tape-recorded Friday night broadcasts.

After each broadcast, students had textbook and outside reading to do and sometimes reports to write. Radio Classroom also re-

quired them to attend three on-campus meetings at Morris Harvey during the semester.

Set up to give further instruction and examinations, the on-campus meetings also developed into brisk question and answer periods.

Forty-nine persons completed the first course satisfactorily and received three hours of residence credit at Morris Harvey.

Radio Classroom has expanded this semester to two courses—Modern Problems of Government and Christianity and American Democracy.

The government course has 39 persons enrolled for its broadcasts at 10 o'clock each Friday night. The religion course, which has 64 students, is broadcast at 1:30 Sunday afternoons.

When federal courts were considered during one of the government courses, Judge Ben Moore of the southern West Virginia U. S. district court was a guest. A local minister often joins the panel for broadcasts of the Christianity and American Democracy course.

Radio Classroom does not try to compete with on-campus study at Morris Harvey. As the president of the college, Dr. Leonard Riggleson explained:

"We offer the courses as a public service to the people in this

area who might otherwise find it inconvenient or impossible to attend classes."

"RATHER STIFF"

Dr. Riggleson conceded that the radio courses purposely have been made "rather stiff."

"We are afraid that otherwise the program might degenerate into something that was essentially entertainment."

Teachers renewing certificates or working toward higher degrees made up the biggest group among those taking the first course for credit.

Rogue River Cut Reported

Harvest of 87,761,000 board feet of timber from the Rogue River National Forest in calendar year 1951 with total receipts of \$1,257,549.00, was reported today by Supervisor J. H. Wood.

Nation's best income in the Pacific Northwest region of the U. S. Forest Service has increased steadily in the past decade. Receipts for Fiscal Year 1951 were \$26,272,927.00, compared to \$2,116,882.00 in 1941, according to Regional Forester J. Herbert Stone.

Receipts for Fiscal Year 1951 on the Rogue River Forest totaled \$952,094.00.

Even more important than increased returns to Federal and County treasuries, is the indication that these public forests are rapidly approaching their rightful place in contributing to the timber economy of the Northwest," said Stone.

"We are bringing previously inaccessible timber areas into production, and are making real progress toward our goal of full sustained yield." The Rogue River Forest sustained yield program provides for an annual harvest of 103 million board feet.

Mining claims continue to block timber removal on portions of the Union Creek area, according to forest personnel. The cut was decreased there in 1951 and a further decrease is predicted for 1952. Claims are prevalent in the accessible locations. These are the areas normally dedicated to winter logging operations.

Twenty-five per cent of all National Forest receipts are returned to the counties in which the forests are located, for roads and schools. The Forest Service is

Honesty Now Has Pale Look

MIAMI BEACH, Fla.—Lipstick and other cosmetics are symbols of feminine deceit and despair, says pretty, modish Mrs. Andre St. Phalle of New York, wife of the chairman of the board of California Eastern Airlines.

Friday she made her first adult public appearance with her own face and is going to continue it, she said.

She told about it at the session of the Assembly of the Americas for Moral Re-Armament.

"I have abandoned cosmetics because I do not need them," she said. "I examined myself under the spotlight of MRA standards of absolute honesty and saw cosmetics as a shroud, a falsehood and a sign of deceit and despair."

"I like being honest with myself. I like my new appearance. My husband didn't know I was going to abandon makeup until I did it. This morning he told me I look better than ever. I would like to see more women be honest with themselves and with the world."

Wholesale Price Level Down

WASHINGTON (AP)—Declines in farm products and foods showed wholesale prices down slightly during the week ended Jan. 15.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics, reporting a 0.4 per cent drop, listed smaller decreases in textiles and chemicals. Biggest increases were for calves, hogs, potatoes at Chicago and some inedible fats and oils.

The index, 176.4 per cent of the 1926 average, was 12.4 per cent above the pre-Korean average but 1.9 below that of one year ago.

authorized to expend an additional ten per cent on National Forest roads and trails within those counties.

Meat Clamp To Continue

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congress has every intention of keeping a full staff of federal meat inspectors on hand despite recent layoff notices, Rep. Whitten (D-Miss) said Saturday.

As chairman of the House appropriations subcommittee on agriculture, he is in a position to press for swift action to keep the inspectors on the job. And he said he would.

The Agriculture Department reported Friday that 280 inspectors at various packing centers over the country were given formal layoff notices, most of them effective around Feb. 17. The department said the notices were sent out because of a lack of funds.

By coincidence, the layoff notices were reported as the department stepped up its vigilance against the possibility of enemy sabotage of the nation's meat supply.

When informed of the layoffs, Whitten said they probably resulted from the general 10 per cent pay raise voted last fall for most federal employes.

Office Filing Date Arrives

Candidates for public office may file their declarations any time now, according to County Clerk Charlie DeLap.

The nominating primary election is scheduled for May 16.

The following county offices will be open this year: County Clerk, Sheriff, Commissioner (one), County Assessor, plus the district or state positions of District Court Judge, Circuit Judge, District Attorney, Representatives (two) and State Senator.

The filing deadline is March 7. Candidates for county offices may get their names on the ballot by payment of a \$20 fee, or by petition bearing the names of registered voters equal to 2 per cent of the party vote for Representative in Congress at the last election. Petitions must be circulated in at least a per cent of the county's 77 voting precincts.

Registration deadline is April 15, 8 p.m.

The clerk's office will start receiving applications for absentee ballots Mar. 17, and will mail them out as late as May 5. All absentee ballots must be returned by May 10.

DeLap said several precincts will need election judges and clerks this year. The pay is 75 cents an hour, plus meals. Last election the pay was 50 cents an hour.

Meat Clamp To Continue

TOKYO (AP)—More than 120 Japanese were injured early Saturday when three drums of gasoline exploded in a warehouse at Chichibu, 25 miles north of Tokyo. Police said they suspected arson.

SAIGON, Indochina

SAIGON, Indochina (AP)—Ten children were killed and 10 seriously injured Friday when a school bus blew up on a road near a mine at Benre, 60 miles southwest of Saigon.

EXPLOSION

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K2	(yellow) corrective utility filter; best for home photography; gets clouds. OK with all films.	FILMS USED WITH	ALL FILMS
A	(red) For use with panchromatic films ONLY. More spectacular clouds; lightens reds, darkens blues.	PANCHROMATIC (SUPERXX, ETC.)	
C5	(blue) not for beginner; darkens reds, lightens blues. Data given here for comparison with "K2" and "A".	ALL FILMS	
SUBJECT COLOR	FILTER USED	Actual reproductions of "Tombura" color snapshots photographed with various filters. Note how Red photographs lighter with the red filter, while blue photographs almost black, while with the blue filter, the blue strip is light and the red strip appears much darker. The yellow filter is a corrective filter for red and blue. All use for exercises in selecting the right filter for your job. There are filters for all colors.	
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