

# Government Mills Marked Beginning Of Basin Lumber Industry

The economic development of the Klamath Basin has been closely affected by the growth of the lumber industry since the first sawmill was established at "Old Fort Klamath" in 1863.

This first mill was a steam driven

en circular mill erected on the east side of Fort Creek opposite the site of the fort and it probably had a capacity of two or three thousand feet per day, according to a pamphlet "Lumbering in Klamath" compiled by the late W. E. Lamm several years ago.

The construction of this mill marked the beginning of the government owned, or leased, sawmill operation in the Basin. These government mills were operated until 1929 at various locations in the Basin.

It is reported that the machinery for this first mill was privately owned and that it was operated, either under lease or contract, until 1870. The mill was built to furnish lumber to the Indians and for various buildings in connection with the fort, which itself was constructed of logs.

The Klamath Indian Reservation was established by a treaty concluded on October 14, 1864. One of the considerations of the treaty was that the government would provide a sawmill for the use of the Indians and for a period of 20 years would keep it in repair and furnish all tools and supplies as well as a sawyer. As the reservation was under the supervision of the Army in those early years and the fort area included within the reservation, it seems certain that the first mill at the fort was used to comply with the treaty terms. The records at the Klamath Agency show that Peter W. Carls was hired as the sawyer by the Indian Service on October 1, 1868. It is likely that other sawyers had been hired prior to that time, the Lamm pamphlet states.

The government built a water powered circular mill in 1870 about a quarter of a mile down stream

from the big spring adjacent to the present highway. This mill was powered by a water turbine.

By 1900 Indian Agent O. C. Applegate, in his annual report stated: "The only sawmill now in operation on this reservation; the antiquated water mill located at this agency and constructed 30 years ago, cannot begin to supply the lumber required for use by the Indians—age and long use have impaired its capabilities and 30 years of almost continuous operation have exhausted the available timber for many miles."

This mill burned late in 1912 and was replaced with a steam driven circular mill located on Crooked Creek near the agency in 1914. This second mill burned in 1918. Two other government owned mills were built for the Indians in 1905 and 1914. The last of these mills were closed in 1929, the last year that the government operated mills in the Basin.

The largest government mill was constructed near Kirk in 1917, a steam-driven circular mill with a capacity of 35,000 feet per day. This mill was built with the intention of offering employment to the Indians by logging tribal timber and sawing it into lumber for commercial sale, the conversion margin going into tribal funds.

After several years of unsuccessful operation this project was discontinued and the mill was leased to Larkey and Brown who operated it in 1920. In 1922 the mill was leased to Christy Brothers, who

operated as the Solomon House Lumber Co. until 1929 when the mill was dismantled.

With the closing, or lease to private individuals, of these mills in the 1920s the era of government owned mills in the Basin ended. From this period to date lumbering in the Basin has been conducted by private enterprise.

## Oregon Agriculture Expert Conducts Hog Supply Study

Why are hog numbers so low in Oregon that the state has to ship in two-thirds of its pork supply?

That's the question that bothered Grant Blanch, Oregon State College agricultural economist, when he found that hog numbers in 1954 were down to around 100,000—the lowest in Oregon since 1887.

There has always been a good demand for pork in the state, Blanch noted. And at present, there is a two-year surplus of feed grains—mostly barley—in Oregon that could well be used to raise hogs. Yet the number of hogs remains low.

Blanch set up a study to find some answers to the problem. Here are four historical answers he found for the state's low hog numbers:

1. Most of the time, there has been a lack of cheap feed grains in the state. In only 5 out of the past 32 years have Oregon feed grains been priced lower than corn in Midwest.

2. Hog-feed price ratios have favored Midwestern hog producers 22 out of the 32 years from 1923 to 1954. This means it was usually cheaper to ship hogs—live or processed—than it was to ship in grain to feed hogs locally.

3. Farm wage rates in the Pacific Coast states have been highest in the nation. This made it expensive for Oregon farmers to raise hogs in comparison to their Midwestern cousins.

4. Other types of farming in Oregon have been more profitable than raising hogs. While a farmer could usually make money raising hogs, there was usually more profit in some other type of farming enterprise.

Blanch points out, however, that some of these historical reasons for low hog numbers no longer fit the present, and perhaps the future, picture.

Farm wage rates have risen in other states and reduced Oregon's disadvantage in labor costs. And the reasonably priced feed barley and other feed grains now available in Oregon favor an expansion in hog numbers here.

Blanch also thinks returns to Oregon hog raisers will improve as Midwest hog raisers become discouraged over low prices.

## OSC Nursery Course Slated

OREGON STATE COLLEGE — Oregon State College has been selected as one of seven colleges in the United States to offer a new two-year program of work in nursery management.

The two-year program has been recommended by the American Association of Nurserymen to meet a serious shortage of trained personnel in the nursery industry—particularly nursery foreman, assistant superintendents, storage supervisors and sales assistants.

More than 100 colleges were contacted by the association before seven were named to offer training in various regions of the country.

OSC was designated as the training center for the Northwest, including Oregon, Washington, Montana, Idaho and Utah.

The other six are University of Connecticut, Michigan State University, Long Island Agricultural and Technical Institute, California State Polytechnic college, Texas A & M and Southwestern Louisiana Institute.

The two-year program will include on-the-job summer training in nurseries throughout the area. Nurserymen have agreed to rotate the student workers in various jobs to provide maximum experience during the training period.

OSC has offered a four-year course in nursery management for more than four years and the special two-year program will be fitted into the four-year offering without requiring extra courses or staff members. Henry Hartman, professor of horticulture, headed up OSC planning of the new program.

The shortage of trained nurserymen is illustrated, Hartman said, by the fact that 96 per cent of the association members reported in a 1953 survey that additional man-power was needed.

## Cover Picture

The cover on this week's Herald and News tabloid section is a picture of Aspen Rutte taken from the West Side Highway by staff photographer Don Kettler.

Kettler used a 4x5 Speed Graphic with a setting of f22 at 100th of a second without a filter.

## OSC Hot House Test Reported

Results of the greenhouse tests for the 1955 crop of Klamath Basin gem seed potatoes were released last week by Klamath County Agent Walt Jendzejewski.

The tests were conducted by Oregon State College technicians. The total acreage of approved foundation gem seed for the Klamath Basin was 319½ acres. A total of 117 acres were approved as certified seed.

Four lots totalling 52 acres were rejected because of excess leaf roll percentage, and five lots totalling 60 acres submitted as foundation seed were reduced in rating to certified for the same reason.

Three other lots totalling 32 acres were rejected at digging time because of nematode, and ring rot was found in three lots.

Three lots totalling 46 acres were rejected at field inspection because of excess leaf roll.

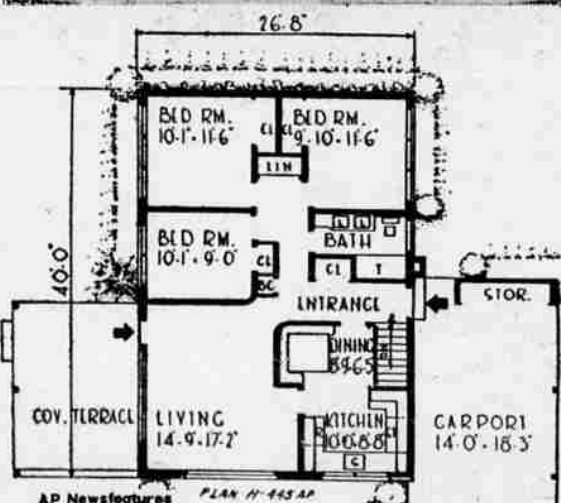
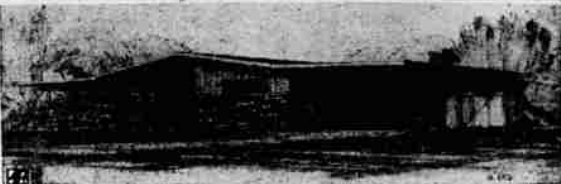
Of a total of 667 acres of gem seed entered for certification, 130 acres, or almost 20 per cent, were rejected for these various reasons.

Jendzejewski said that because of a strengthening market, most of this seed has been spoken for and has entered commercial channels. He said that there is no seed surplus.

He said that there is sufficient seed in this total to plant 7500 of the usual 10-12,000 planting in the county, but half of it has probably been sold as table stock and half of the remainder has been booked.

He said there may be sufficient foundation seed remaining to plant 1500-2000 acres, but growers are not inclined to hold seed late, so much of this might be sold for table stock.

## HOMES FOR AMERICANS



FOR SMALL OR LARGE LOT this house packs a lot of comfort into economical space. The house proper is less than 27 feet wide, yet it has a broad facade enhanced by extended masonry to screen a side covered terrace. The house covers 1,067 square feet and contains 19,202 cubic feet with full basement. This is plan H-445AP by the Homograp Co., 11711 East Eight Mile Rd., East Detroit, Mich.

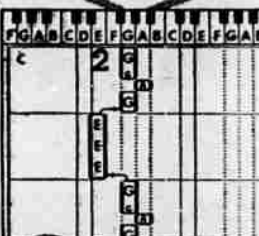
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