

Basin Logging Methods Undergo Great Changes Since Early Days

The logging methods used in the Klamath Basin, and in the entire West for that matter, have undergone great change since the beginning of the lumber industry in this area.

Prior to 1860 most of the logging was done by oxen, either skidding directly to the mill or into water and then floating the logs to the mill sites. Where a long haul was involved, wagons pulled by oxen were used. These, and many other interesting facts concerning the history of lumbering in the Basin are contained in a pamphlet published by the late W. E. Lamm several years ago.

HORSES USED

During the 1860s horses began to supplant oxen as a faster means of getting the logs out of the woods. About 1900 "stinger-tongue" wheels came into use for short hauls. These rigs had two wheels eight or nine feet in diameter and an axle with two eccentrics and a tongue eight or ten feet long.

During loading, the tongue pointed straight up while the chain was placed under the logs with the two ends of the chain fastened to the eccentrics. A pair of horses hitched to the end of the tongue with a long chain pulled the tongue down level while the chain over-

the eccentrics lifted the logs from the ground. The loggers then held the tongue down while the team was hitched back close to the tongue to pull the load.

DANGEROUS

These outfits were touchy to operate, according to oldtime loggers. Going downhill the load would run forward and the tongue would fly up letting the logs drag, thus theoretically acting as a brake. Often when the load was hung too high or the grades were too steep, the horses and the driver would have to run to keep in the clear. Since there was no way of guiding run-a-way wheels, they would sometimes leave the road and pile up against a tree or stump, too often breaking the wheels, killing the horses and occasionally the drivers suffered injuries or were killed.

Around 1910 "slip-tongue" wheels came into general use in this area. They were pulled by a four-horse team with the driver riding one of the wheel horses. They were a big improvement over the old stinger-tongue wheels being much safer to operate.

COMMON METHOD

Using these slip-tongue wheels with horses to yard logs back the 1,000 feet or so to the railroad

spur was the most common method of logging for about 15 years.

The advent of gasoline fueled tractors about 1925 marked the beginning of the end for horses in the woods. These machines, traveling faster and carrying larger loads, delivered about twice as many logs per set of wheels as horses did and did not require a snap-back team to pull the wheels over the load. Each tractor replaced ten horses and two men.

Diesel tractors began to make their appearance in the woods about 1935.

With the increased power in the new tractors, several kinds of yarding equipment were tried out each giving more capacity in log hauling. One common type used for many years was the Athey Arch. This was superseded by those of the present common type with a cast steel boom supported by struts or an arch carrying the

fairlead. These carriers lift the front end of several logs letting the rear end of the logs drag.

While some automotive logging trucks were used prior to 1920, they really got their start as efficient logging equipment about 1930 and rapidly came into use logging direct to small mills and to railroads. Since 1940 truck logging has largely been supplanting railroad logging except in instances of unusually long hauls.

Bunching Of Beef Market Sales Predicted By Expert

Floodgates have been opened on the nation's record backlog of finished beef with more than one-half of the nearly six million wintered cattle likely to be marketed during the first three months of this year.

Livestock feeders who have held longer than usual hoping for better prices are "bunching" market-

ings rather than holding animals to heavier weights that meet consumer resistance, reports William Fowler, Oregon State College livestock marketing specialist.

Partly-finished steers may also move rapidly to avoid competition with last fall's big pig crop scheduled to hit retail markets by late spring, Fowler says.

Main hope for feeders of heavy cattle lies in the defense department's announcement that the military will continue through March its program for accelerated purchases of boneless beef. The program was started in December at the request of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Nationally, winter feeding of cattle has increased one-third since 1950 with this year's 5,823,000 head running one per cent above last year's previous record. Corn belt feeders, with about 70 per cent of the total, held their numbers close to last year's. But Western states were feeding 1,563,000 head on January 1—three per cent above last year's previous record.

Oregon feeders had 45,000 head on January 1 for a 24 per cent increase over last year, Fowler reports.

Even more significant than total numbers of cattle, the specialist explains, is the present rate of marketing. Farmers' intentions on January 1 were to market 51 per cent of the total numbers during the first three months of the year compared to 44 per cent for the same period last year. Fowler explains that farmers can no longer afford to give cattle extra finish while waiting for better prices.

Other feeding trends noted by the specialist this winter are fewer calves and lightweight cattle on feed, about the same numbers of middleweights, and a big increase in heavy cattle.

OSC Conducts Canning Tests

Oregon growers may be encouraged by canning and freezing results of more than 180 varieties of fruits and vegetables test-processed last year at Oregon State College.

W. A. Rock, OSC food technologist, reports that strawberries, raspberries, blackberries and green beans are most "promising" for development of new commercial varieties.

Among 47 strawberry varieties tested, Marshall and Northwest were among the 17 that processed satisfactorily. OSC horticulturists report the Marshall is the best all-around berry for freezing and preserving and the Northwest is especially good for freezing.

Washington, Willamette and Canby raspberry varieties are still recommended for good yields and processing by OSC food technologists who tested 36 varieties. The Washington is good canned or frozen; Willamette, canned; and the Canby, preserved or frozen.

Evergreen and Boysenberry blackberry varieties are good pie berries, according to researchers.

Although Blue Lake varieties of pole green beans still hold first place among Oregon's processing beans, continued change in green bean varieties is predicted by W. A. Frazier, OSC horticulturist. Last year, some midwestern brush varieties were tested at OSC for possible breeding stock.

No immediate changes are expected in corn varieties. Golden Cross Bantam, an Oregon standby for several years, seems to process better than midwest varieties, reports Frazier.

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