

Huge Growth For Timber Industry Predicted For Next 20 Years In America

By NARD JONES
Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Recently I received a letter from a friend who said that the tourist business would one day be bigger in this state than the wood-using industries. Possibly so. I am no prophet.

But he went on to say the wood business could not get any bigger because "a tree can grow only so fast, and we can grow only so many of them."

No other statement could possibly be so wrong.

The wood-using industries in this state and elsewhere are going to make such progress in the next 20 years that their advance in the past 20 will seem like peanuts in comparison. That is not prophecy; that is common sense based on known facts.

First of all, it is not accurate to say that a tree can grow "only so fast." Through the science of genetics and soil fertilization, as well as by means of improved forestry, men are growing trees faster all the time. And they are, contrary to my friend's impression, growing more of them.

But that's not the only reason that the manufacture of lumber products, of wood-pulp products, and of paper products, is going to keep on expanding tremendously.

For an ever-expanding population, and for an expanding growth in "family formations," the wood-using industries in this region are continually developing new and better products.

The demand for paper in the United States has never in its long history receded to a previous low. And now the world markets for paper are growing as the literacy of the world grows.

Of course a demand for paper and paper products means a demand for wood-pulp—and already Washington State is the No. 1 wood-pulp producer in the nation. It used to be Maine.

Does that mean that Maine is on the skids as a wood state? No. It is on the upturn as a wood state, as is every state which has renewable forests.

Most citizens need to update their conception of the wood-using industries. Most of us need to take another look at a tree.

A tree is more than beautiful. It is a very complicated chemical factory, powered by the sun and rain. By a complicated process called photosynthesis it produces trillions of tiny wood-cellulose fibers. These are held together by lignin, and industry is finding ever-widening uses for that product of the tree also.

Those remarkable wood fibers, with the lignin and a few other chemicals, make wood and pulp products when left in their natural state. And those same fibers, processed in man-built factories, make woodpulp. And woodpulp makes paper and at least a thousand other things.

If it is a thousand now, it will be 2,000 eventually. The history of wood fibers tells us so.

That beautiful tree factory, more wonderful than any man-built factory, creates the fibers from which can be built many more things than wood products and paper.

Among them are food and pharmaceutical additives. The ice cream you had yesterday may have been "fluffed" with tiny, harmless wood-cellulose fibers.

But the great demand for the fibers is in the business of making food packages and cartons for food. And the future of food packaging and foods themselves is endless.

So are we running out of those tree factories? Or will we run out of them? The answer is no to both questions.

Enlightened forestry management, including "tree farms" which began right here in this state, will see to that.

There are trees for beauty and recreation; they must and will be allowed to live and die in their own natural life cycle. The wood-using industries are dedicated to that proposition.

But also there are trees which are raised as a crop. The modern lumber "board" can be made from trees which grow from seedling to maturity in 20 to 40 years. The same is true of woodpulp trees.

And the great majority of commercial trees used now for fibers are owned by the small "tree farmer" who plants and harvests in rotation of ground like any wheat farmer.

We all need to take another look at our forests and what they mean in terms of wealth and jobs. The tourist business may get awfully big, and that is wonderful. But if it outreaches the wood business in the Evergreen Land it will have to be big indeed.

They say that now tourism brings a bit over 100 million dollars a year into the state. That is fine; but your modern Paul Bunyan can tell you that a single pulp mill and some forest land to run it will run to that figure.

Maybe that will give you a rough idea.

Brand Law Change Made

By United Press International

The Bureau of Livestock Identification reminds that the date for re-registering cattle brands under the new brand law is January 1. Bureau Chief Logan Morton says there are some three or four thousand brands yet to be recorded under the new law outlined in 1948. The law reduces brand recordings to just one brand alike on each of the eight positions.

As it now stands, brands recorded previous to 1948 may be identical to another rancher's mark in some other county. Morton says he believes the reason many ranchers are holding back is the fact that their brand has been in use for periods ranging up to 100 years and they hate to see the old family identification go. Where brands are duplicated with another person's brand, the registration with the earliest registration date has priority.

The Livestock Identification Bureau has about 25,000 brands recorded. At one time, recording was left up to county recorders. This resulted in a cattle man in one county conceivably having the same brand as his neighbor whose ranch was in the adjoining county across the fence. The new law eliminates duplication of brands.

Plastic Kits Aid Blind

DENVER (UPI) — Plastic kits designed to help blind persons "see" are being manufactured by a Polish couple who have been in the U.S. little more than a year. More than 100 of the kits are being used in schools for the blind in France, Poland, Algeria and this country.

Mr. and Mrs. Maria Boniecki began the project seven years ago. They are both artists and they manufacture the kit and braille forms in the basement of their Denver apartment.

The kit includes a plastic slate, a ruler and 154 pieces of soft, flexible plastic in 26 different shapes. A blind person can create the illusion of any object by placing the different pieces on the slate.

Also included in the kit are 25 sheets of braille paper with 179 different designs stamped onto them.

The designs begin with simple patterns and develop into architectural studies, furniture, flowers and a great number of other objects. A blind student can duplicate the patterns on the braille sheets with the plastic pieces.



KLAMATH COUNTY was represented at the annual Youth Range Camp held recently at the Dairy Creek ranger station by, left to right, Steve Schmeck, Klamath Falls; Don Micka, Malin; Fred Acklin, Bonanza; and Don Johnson, Malin.

Klamath County Boys At Youth Range Camp Meeting

Representing Klamath County at this year's Youth Range Camp were Fred Acklin of Bonanza, Don Johnson and Don Micka of Malin, and Steve Schmeck of Klamath Falls. The camp was held August 4 through 9 at the Dairy Creek Guard Station in the Fremont National Forest near Lakeview.

A total of 49 boys from 16 eastern and Southern Oregon counties attended the camp. Those attending were selected through plant identification contests in their county, or on the basis of leadership, citizenship, and love of the outdoors.

Each boy at the camp received a \$25 scholarship to cover costs of attending the camp. Scholarships were provided by local sponsors in each county. Acklin was sponsored by Standard Feed and Simplot Soil Builders, and Johnson by the Cattlemen's Association. Micka received a scholarship from Pacific Supply Company, and Schmeck was sponsored by J. W. Kerns.

The camp is sponsored each year by the Pacific Northwest section of the American Society of Range Management. Main purpose of the camp is to give boys a chance to spend a week living out of doors in range country, giving them a better outlook on plant and animal life, according to William Currier, U.S. Forest Service, Portland, chairman of the society's range camp committee.

At the camp, boys slept out of doors under the stars, and all instruction was on out-of-door subjects. The guard station, surrounded by rolling grazing lands and pine-timbered hills, gave the boys a large laboratory in which to study.

During study sessions, the boys learned to identify and describe various plants found on the range, studied soil and range judging, took part in discussions on conservation and wildlife management, and received instruction in photography, fishing, hunting, camping, and hiking. On the side, the boys managed to squeeze in a little swimming, horseshoes, and other camp games.

Around evening campfires, the boys learned more of the work of the range management society, held their speech contest, and even had a "tall tales" contest.

Major emphasis at the camp was set by the plant description contest held the first day, said E. R. Jackman, Oregon State College extension range management specialist and camp program chairman. In this contest, and during the camp, boys were urged to keep their eyes and ears open and to observe, appreciate, and remember what was going on around them.

Resource people at the camp included Currier, Jackman, Cliff Windle, USFS, Lakeview; Dr. Albert Steward, curator of the OSC herbarium; Fred Greenfield, SCS, Bend; Andy Landforce, OSC extension wildlife management specialist; Willis Kietheley, Madras naturalist and photographer; and Barry Freeman, OSC extension range management specialist.

Eight husky dogs who accompanied the British expedition to the South Pole this year have been given to Norway where they will draw ambulance sledges.

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