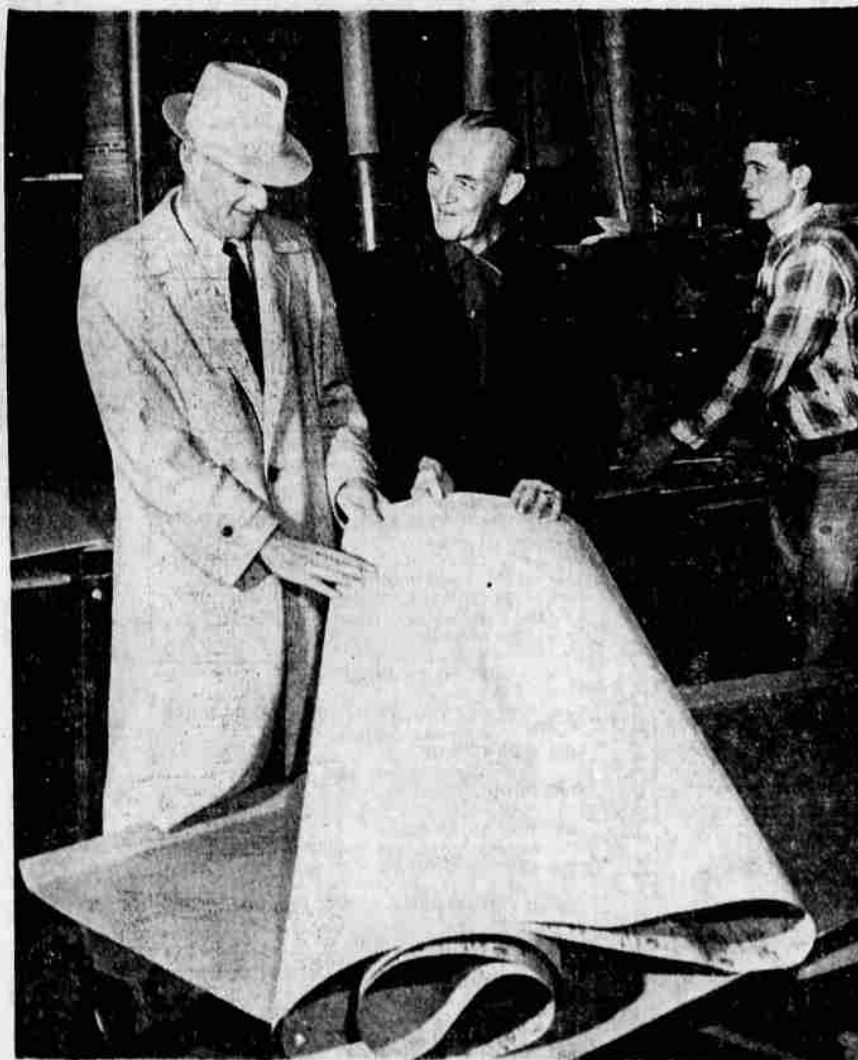
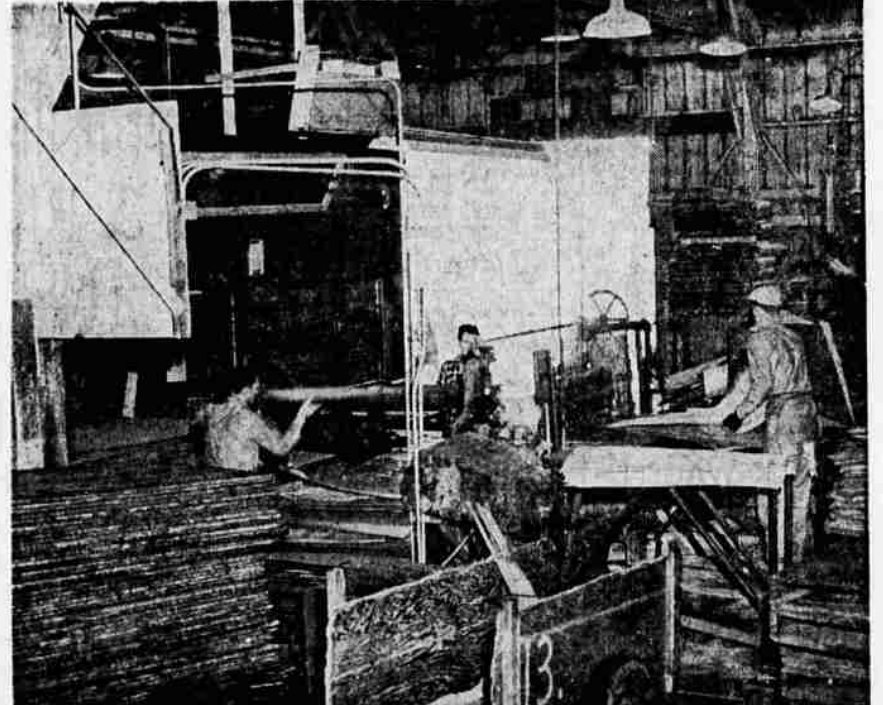
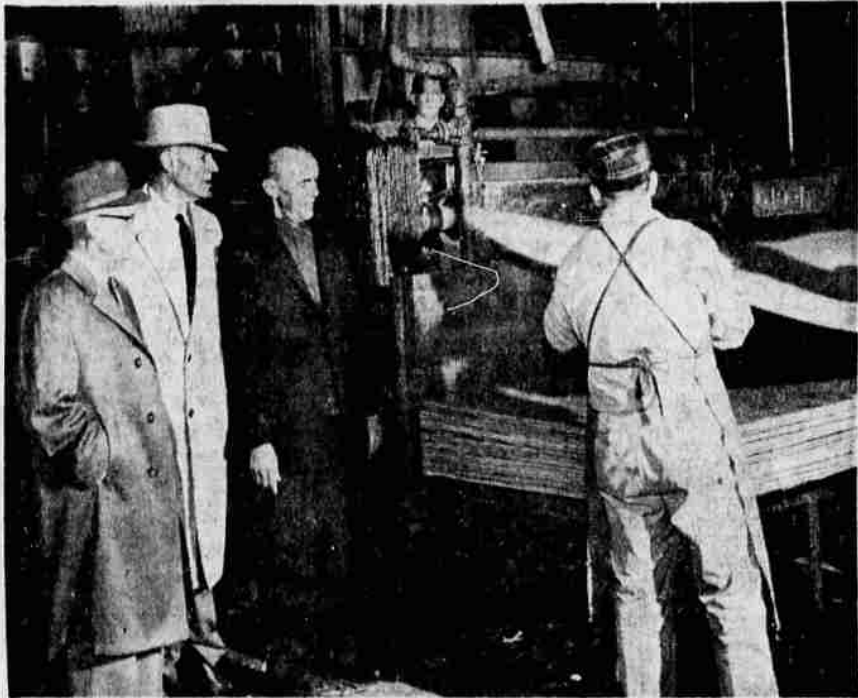


Klamath Hardwoods Becomes Big Industry



Firm Listed As Big Factor In Basin Area's Progress

By FLOYD WYNNE

From a defunct organization to a promising industrial giant in an incredibly short time. That describes the progress of Klamath Hardwoods, Inc.

Without fanfare, but with swift steady strides this Klamath Basin industry has moved into a rapidly expanding market and filled the needs of builders across the nation.

In October 1956, the Kalpine Plywood Company closed its doors and ceased operation. Nine months later, a new group stepped in to organize a new company, Klamath Hardwoods, Inc. This marked the beginning of an industry that is rapidly assuming a very important place in the economy of the Basin area.

Proof of the claim is contained in figures that show Klamath Hardwoods now employs 182 men with an annual payroll in excess of one million dollars, and plans in the making for the expansion to 250 men in the near future.

A combination of experience and capital, the new company shipped out its first carload of plywood in late July 1957, and 18 months later, are rolling out an average of 900 cars of plywood to market each year.

The annual gross sales volume exceeds six million dollars and continues to grow as the demand for plywood increases. Twenty-seven different veneer finishes in plywood move into the nation's lumber markets where they will become kitchens, dens, recreation rooms, anywhere that top-grade veneers are needed.

Meantime, by ship, and by rail, shipments of the different veneers move to Klamath Hardwoods where the finished product is put

together. From the Philippine Islands, from Africa, from Italy and other parts of the world the veneers arrive.

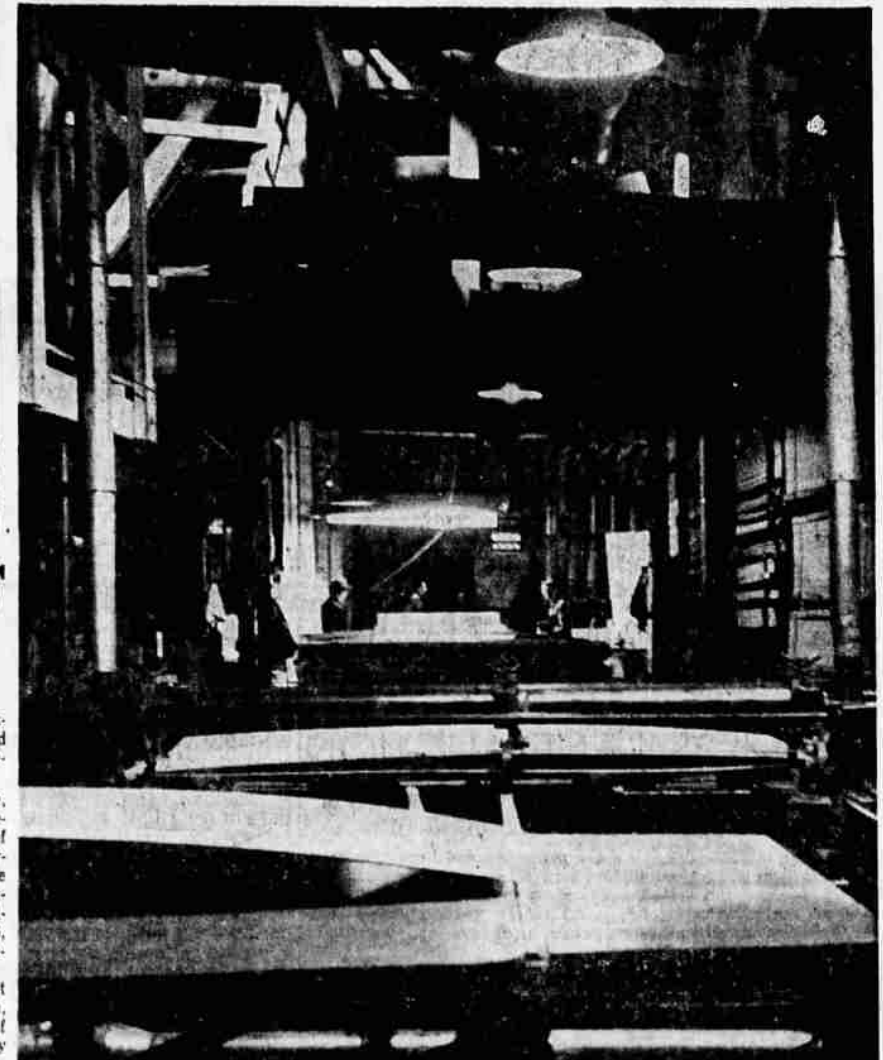
Here the efforts of 182 men pile, press, polish and saw the one-twenty-eighth inch thick pieces of veneer into plywood of one quarter, three-eighths, one half, five eighths and three quarter inch thicknesses. They are buffed and polished into sheets that are 4 x 6, 4 x 7 or 4 x 8, or made to special order to other sizes.

A. J. (Andy) Honzel, president and general manager of the firm, pointed out that 95 per cent of the rail shipments of the company are on Southern Pacific and five per cent on the Great Northern. This comes about, he said, because about that percentage of the incoming products also are shipped on the two companies, and freight rate advantages dictate the percentages.

Honzel is justifiably proud of a recent unsolicited letter which he received from an Arizona firm which said, in part, "Believe me, Andy, I want to thank you for the wonderful service and beautiful products you have furnished us with during that part of the past year we were lucky enough to be buying from your 'topnotch' firm."

Officers of the company besides Honzel are Loren Palmerton, vice president, Brady Narey, secretary-treasurer, and directors Russell Larson, Portland and Joe J. L. McCarthy, Orafino, Idaho.

"An industry whose presence will continue to be an important factor in the progress of the Basin," was the comment of Mayor Lawrence Slater who visited the plant this week. He was accompanied by his wife, Phyllis, city manager G. S. Vergeer Sr., and others.



TOP LINE — (left) A. J. Honzel, president and general manager of the Klamath Hardwoods, Inc., views the finished product, ready for shipment under the name "Toketee Brand Plywood." (center) An exterior view of one portion of the hardwood plant located adjacent to U.S. 97 just south of Reames Golf and Country Club. (right) A stack of plywood that has just been given a 21,000 pound squeeze in the giant press. The glue is of soy beans and the stack will be allowed to dry over night and then trimmed and finished.

CENTER LINE — (left) Watching the stacking and gluing process in action is (left to right) City Manager G. S. Vergeer Sr., Mayor Lawrence Slater and A. J. Honzel (center picture). Western softwood comes down the drying line where moisture is removed in the long dryer. Each piece of this inner ply for the plywood takes 22 minutes to move through the drying process. (right) The "highball" gluing assembly where speed is of the utmost importance. From this assembly, the stack of plywood moves into the press.

LOWER LINE — (left) Honzel and Mayor Slater examine one of the sandpapers used in the sanding process. This particular piece is extremely fine sandpaper. Honzel pointed out that the plywood is sanded three times, from rough to fine. The operation now requires three trips through the sander, but a new machine is being secured which will do all three sanding jobs in one operation. "This will be the only one of its kind in the Northwest," Honzel explained. (center) The stack of lumber goes into the press. On the far side of the press can be seen the lumber that has been under 21,000 pounds pressure with the glue popping out the sides. (right) The trim saw assembly for the inner plies of the hardwood product, where the sheets are squared for further use.

LOWER LEFT — Honzel explains exhibit of 27 different plywood panels to Mrs. Lawrence Slater (center) and Mrs. Robert Thompson, recent plant visitors. Honzel pointed out that the exhibit, which shows most of the 27 different woods in panel form, will be available for a short time, and anyone interested is invited to view the display at the plant.

