

Weyerhaeuser Marks 30th Anniversary In Klamath



THE MILL AS IT LOOKED 30 YEARS AGO when Weyerhaeuser first started operations in Klamath Falls in what was then the largest pine mill in the West. In this old photo one can see the basic mill, some of the roofs still

incomplete and the burner lying quiet and smokeless. It is interesting to note the number of Ford Model A's parked around the plant and the raw lumber stacked ready for the construction of still more buildings.

Weyerhaeuser Company's Klamath Falls mill reached its 30th birthday this month. On Monday, December 16, 1923, the first log was cut in what was then the west's largest pine sawmill. The event was bannered the following day in the Evening Herald, predecessor of the Herald and News.

"The first log was put through the mill largely as a test," recalls Jack Bishop, present manager of the Klamath Falls branch, "but also it had the effect of generating a spirit of accomplish-

ment. Ralph Macartney, now retired, but manager at the time, recognized the psychology involved in getting things started."

While the sawmill was not in full operating condition the first day, neither were some of the other departments, although enough was completed to make a start. The machine shop, green chain, powerhouse, dry chain, rough shed, and planer and shipping departments were functional. All of these have since been remodeled or enlarged over the years

The box factory, Pres-to-Log, and hardboard departments were to follow. The office, built in 1928 as a temporary affair, remained so until 1937 following the depression.

Nearby the new sawmill stood an older, smaller one. Using circular saws, it had been constructed two years earlier to cut railroad ties for the railroad running to the west and to cut boards used in the construction of the new plant. There was a small planing mill, too, located near the present truck shop.

Among employees at the company branch today are 17 who witnessed the opening of the sawmill. These include Manager Jack Bishop; Jack Biwer, dock foreman; William D. Crawford, pond foreman; Earl Cruikshank, camp foreman; T. S. Durment, public relations; A. N. McEachern, stackers; Richard Griffith, blacksmith; Russell Griffith, dry chain; E. D. Hickman, office manager; Jim Hunter, machine shop foreman; Brady Meggs, machinist; Thelma S. Newton, receptionist; George Ol-

son, dry chain; Conrad Schweiger, stackers; Frank Tarr, purchasing agent; G. M. Upington, woods engineer; and Ralph Williams, box factory foreman. These and certain others not mentioned because their company service may not have been continuous, have witnessed not only the company growth, but that of Klamath Falls itself. While the operating payroll has climbed from a few hundred thousands of dollars a year to over six million, Klamath Falls and its environs has increased four times in population. Witnessed, too, has been better utilization of the log, more products, many changes in forest management, and the development of modern manufacturing methods.

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of Weyerhaeuser Company's Klamath Falls Branch, Manager J. B. Bishop had this to say:

"We are happy to be a part of a thriving community. Our payroll averages 1,150 employees the year around. A large percentage of our people are property owners. The tax dollar of both employees and the company lend substantial support to the local economy."

"More than that, our people actively participate in many local organizations. Consequently, we have a neighborly interest in doing our share toward sustaining the local economy in the years to come."



PRESENT MANAGER OF WEYERHAEUSER COMPANY in Klamath Falls is Jack Bishop who took over after the death of Dave Troy in 1956. Bishop joined the local mill in 1930 in the purchasing department, moved to the sales department and for many years was sales manager.

UNCLAIMED FREIGHT

HARTFORD, Conn. (UPI) — A freight office had trouble getting rid of an item which was unclaimed because it was damaged in transit. It was a full-sized locomotive.

THE COVER

This shot of the Weyerhaeuser operation here was taken by Herald and News photo artist Wes Guderian to mark the firm's 30th anniversary of operation in the Klamath Country. The powerhouse chimney looms in the center of the foreground, to the right are the storage silos for chips used in the hardboard plant and in the foreground a crane working at tearing up the log dump.



RALPH R. MACARTNEY was the first manager at the big Weyerhaeuser mill in Klamath Falls when it started operations 30 years ago. Macartney, now retired, was an on-the-spot boss during the construction and early days of the mill which was then the largest in the West. He held that position until his retirement in 1953.