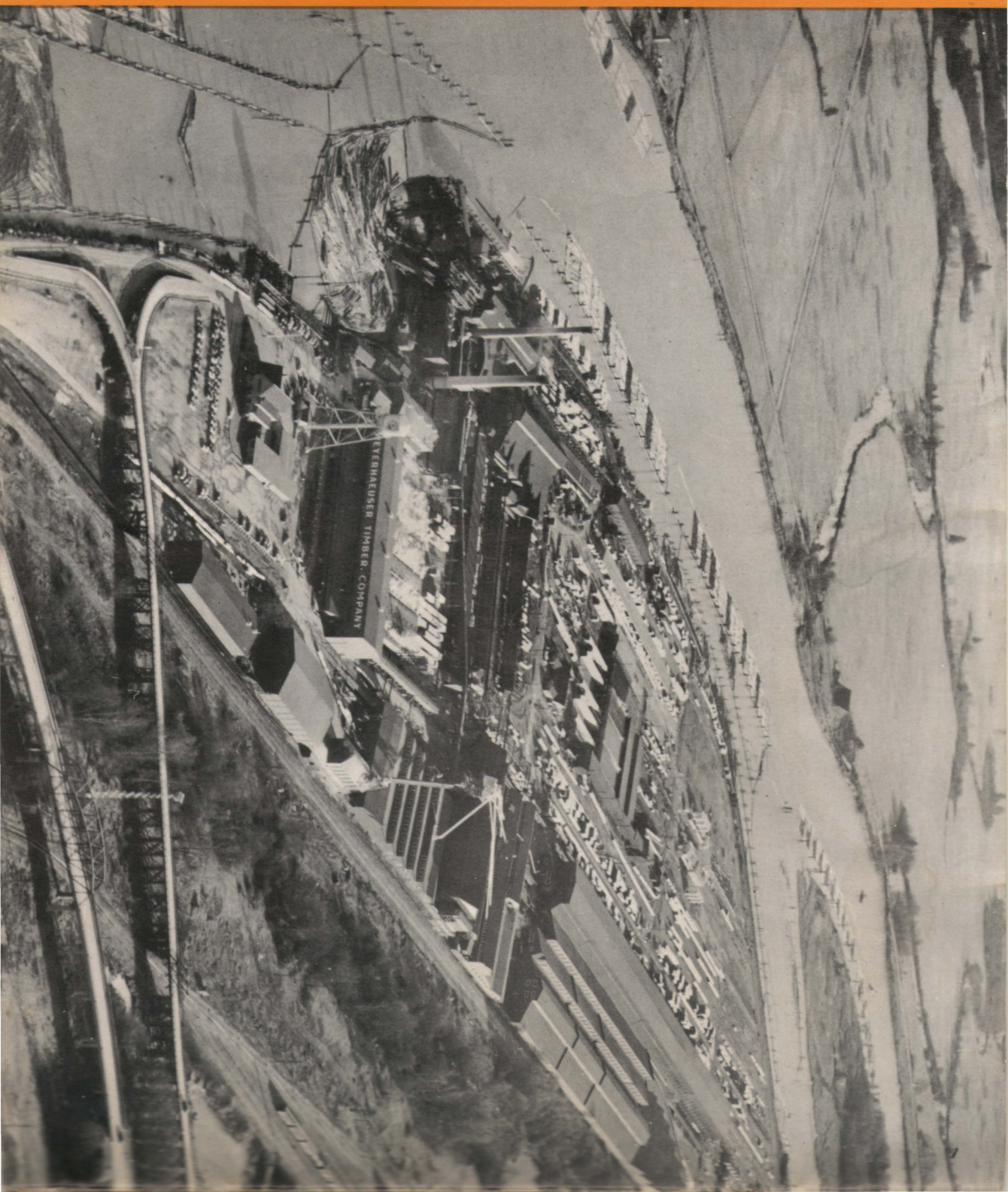
Your Weyerhaeuser Tour

WEYERHAEUSER TIMBER COMPANY

EVERETT LUMBER DIVISION

Presented by Weyerhaeuser Timber Company, Lumber Division
Everett, Washington



By Way of Introduction . . .

It was in 1902 – the year Marconi sent his first trans-Atlantic radio message – that Weyerhaeuser Timber Company entered the sawmilling business in Everett by purchasing a waterfront plant on Port Gardner Bay. It was called Mill A, and its lumber was carted about by horses. In 1915 the company completed Mill B on the Snohomish River. This mill was powered by 500 electric motors, and was one of the world's largest and most modern sawmilling units. Twelve years later the adjacent Mill C sawed its first log. By 1936 Mill A had been converted to a sulphite-pulp plant, and Mill B today stands as Weyerhaeuser's senior sawmill.

The company's Everett Lumber Division is still one of the world's most modern and efficient forest-products plants. Its power plant creates the power of 14,000 horses to move its products from log pond to boxcar. Its 1100 employees, whose annual payroll is $4,600,000 produce enough lumber each day to fill thirty boxcars. Continuous operation and reinvestment in new and better equipment have kept these mills in the forefront—furnishing forest products which have helped to build this nation.

At the end of the trestle approach to the Lumber Division is this gatehouse. Here guests receive a cordial welcome.

Most employees drive their cars to work, and nearly 600 cars are parked here each day. The branch office is in the background.

Visitors are always welcome to visit the mills. Their tour usually begins at the Guest House, where they may register.

From the air, Everett Lumber Division's 147-acre plantsite stretches along the Snohomish River near where it empties into Puget Sound. Mill B is in the foreground.

A prime Douglas fir is being felled on the Vail-McDonald Tree Farm near Centralia, Washington. Here a half-million acres grow trees for Everett.

Vail's fir, hemlock, and cedar are loaded onto trucks, reloaded onto a private railroad. Logging is on a perpetual, sustained-yield basis at Vail.

Timber Harvesting . . .

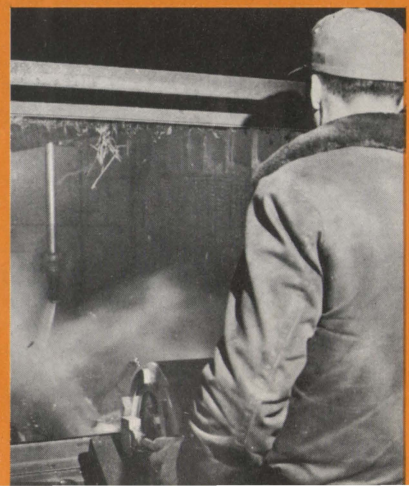
At South Bay, near Olympia, Vail's logs are dumped into Puget Sound, made into rafts, and towed by tugs nearly 100 miles to Everett's hungry saws.

Log revolves while hydraulic barker nozzle strips off bark with 1400 pounds pressure per square inch. Bark is used to fire boilers; skinned logs are made into lumber, chips.

Bark-Free Logs . . .

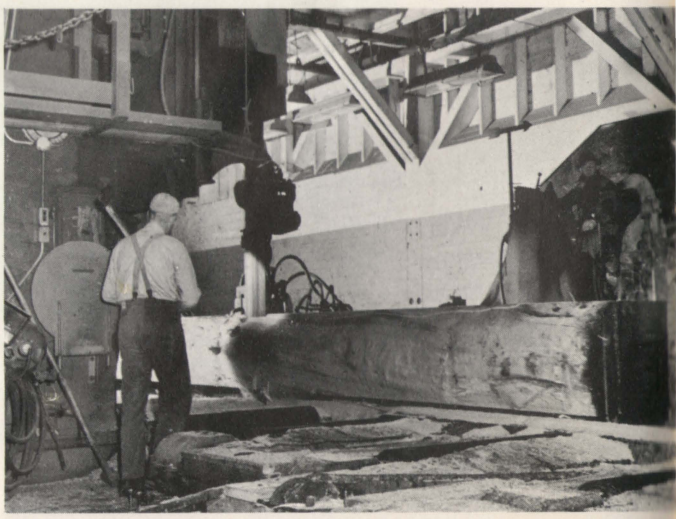
When logs arrive at Everett, they are sorted by boommen who jockey them to chains leading into the mill barker.

Barker operator is protected by bullet-proof windows as he deftly maneuvers nozzle back and forth.

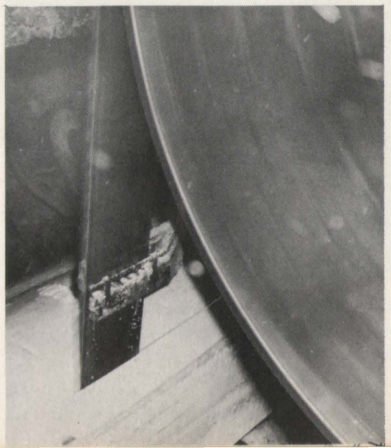


Head Rig . . .

Head sawyer is key man in the sawmill. His experience guides him in getting highest quality lumber from each log. He cuts for customer orders, posted near him.

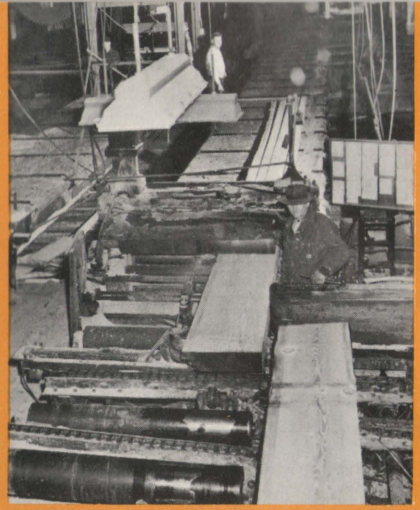


Man on carriage is the setter. He adjusts log upon signals from head sawyer. The offbearer in foreground turns slabs so they will lie flat on roll-cases.



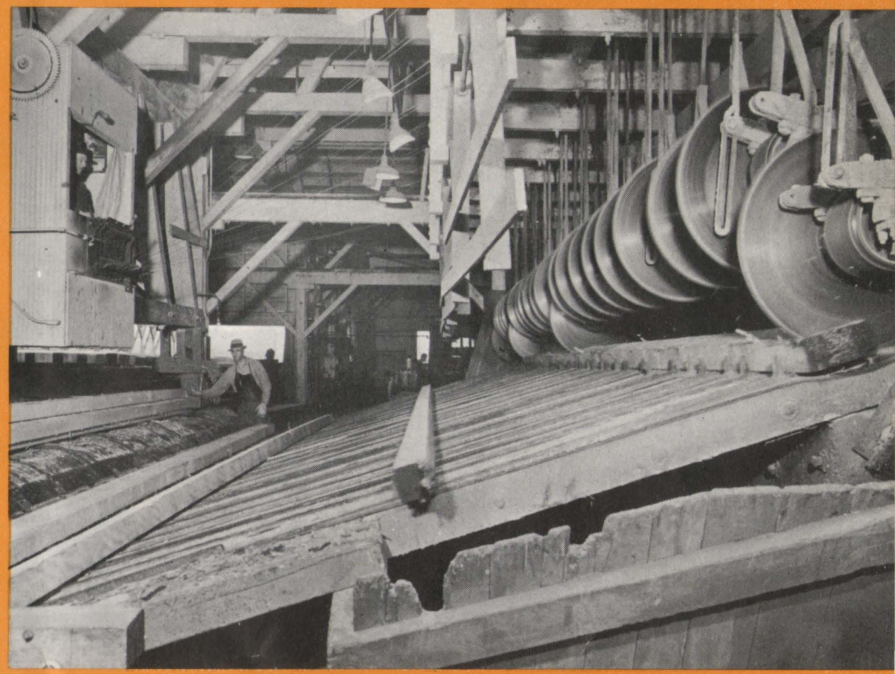
Head saw is traveling at 120 miles per hour. This whining giant band saw is sixteen inches wide, one-eighth-inch thick, and it is changed every 2½ hours.

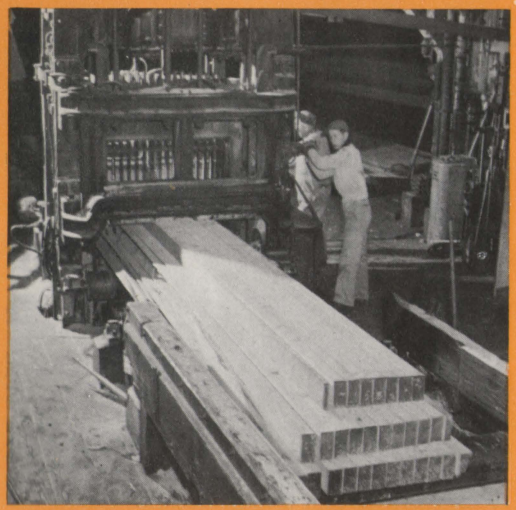
Manufacturing . . .



Cants cut from log by head saw are going through a bull-edger. Adjustable saws, floating on an arbor, cut cants into any desired width. Edgerman is at right.

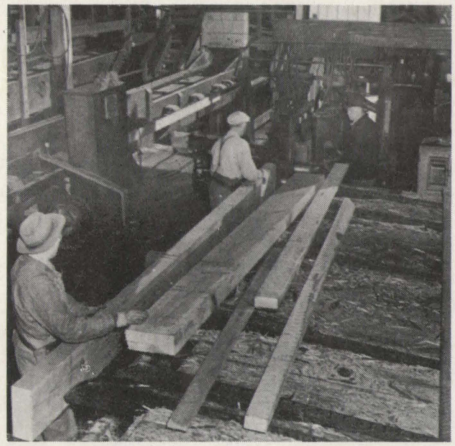
Trimmerman manipulates his 21 saws like an organist at the keyboard. He trims out defects in the lumber, and cuts to desired lengths. His decisions must be swift.





Other cants are piled on top of each other, sawed into lumber by this chuffing gang saw, which can cut 200 pieces at one time.

Resaw and Green Chain . . .

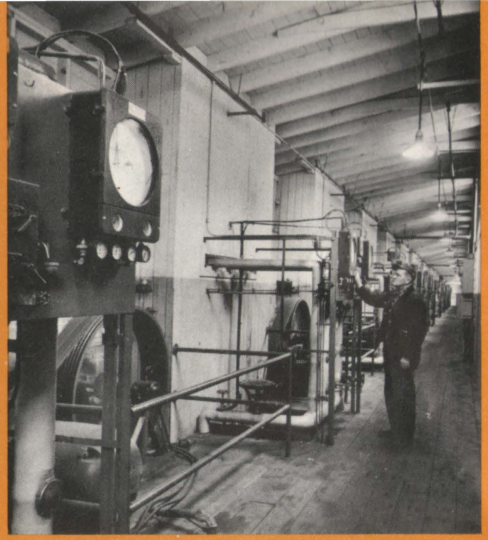


After a first grading, some lumber must be remanufactured. Here four-inch lumber is entering a vertical resaw to emerge as two-inch lumber, which is known as dimension.

Lumber here comes out of the resaw. This and other remanufacturing processes end the sawmilling phase. The green lumber is now sorted for further processing.

Onto one of the mill's three green chains flows the rough lumber. These men build unit loads on both sides of the chain according to grade, size, length, and species.

Kiln Drying . . .

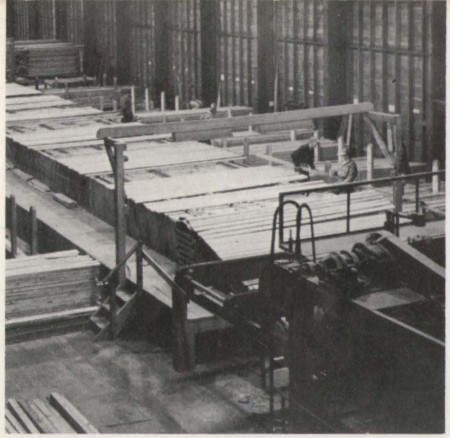


Lumber dries from the inside out. Steam keeps outer part moist while inside dries. Here the operator checks steam controls.

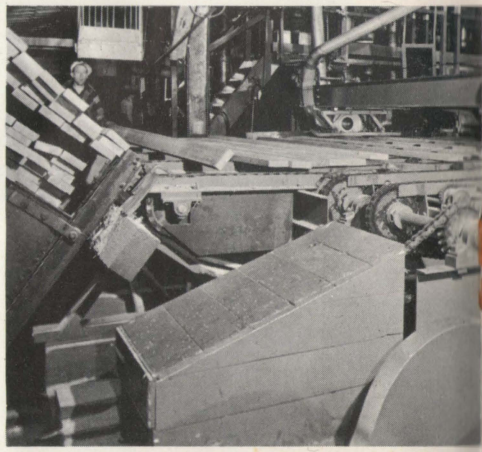
After careful stacking for air and steam circulation, lumber is readied for kiln-drying. This process reduces moisture content from about 50 per cent to 8-10 per cent.

In manufacturing a dependable product, quality-control is important. Here dried lumber is being tested for moisture content. Kiln-drying increases wood strength and hardness.

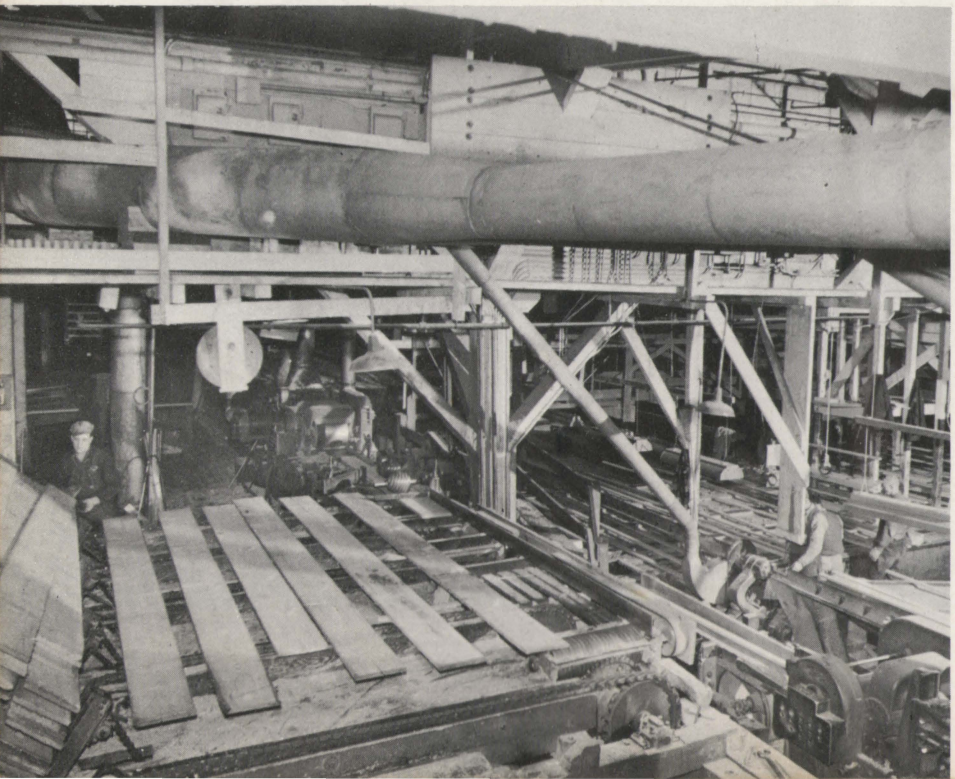
Planing, Storage . . .



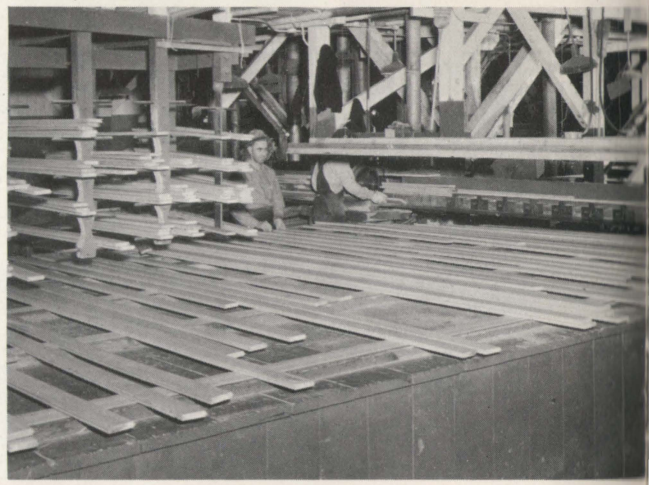
Out of the dry kilns, lumber is unstacked into special loads for the planing mill where it is planed or run to pattern.



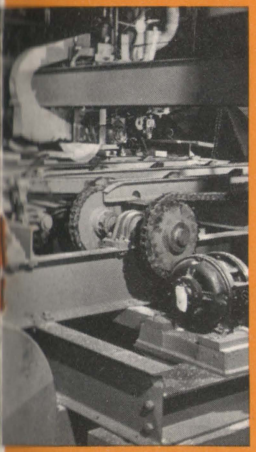
More than 1 million lineal feet of lumber a day is surfaced to various patterns in Everett's eight planers and end-matchers. Revolving "heads" with knives plane the boards on all four sides.



From the planers, lumber is graded, trimmed, and racked by grade, size, and species. From racks it is tied into unit bundles. The grader is at the left of the trimmer.



and Shipping . . .

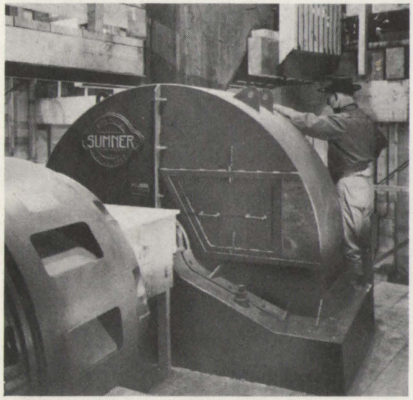


This in-line trimmer trims lumber to exact length, stamps 4-Square trademark on both ends, and transfers it to automatic planer feeder.

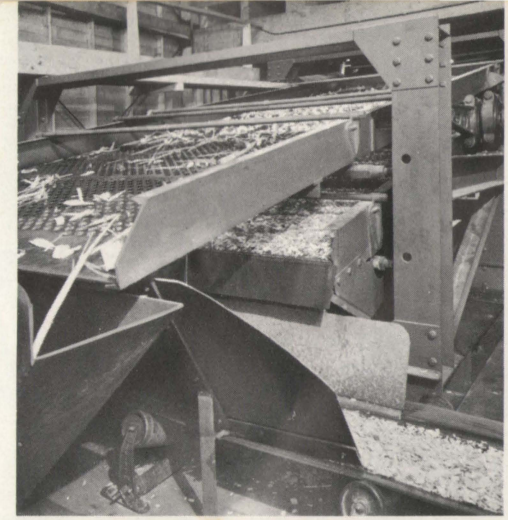
Filling exact customer orders, finished lumber is loaded into boxcars in the loading shed. This long track is under cover and will hold thirty boxcars.

Rough timbers are accumulated here, awaiting shipment. This electric bridge crane spans 110 feet, and it travels on a craneway five hundred feet long.

Chips for Pulping . . .



Bark-free edgings and trimmings are conveyed from the sawmill to this roaring chipper for wood-pulp raw material.

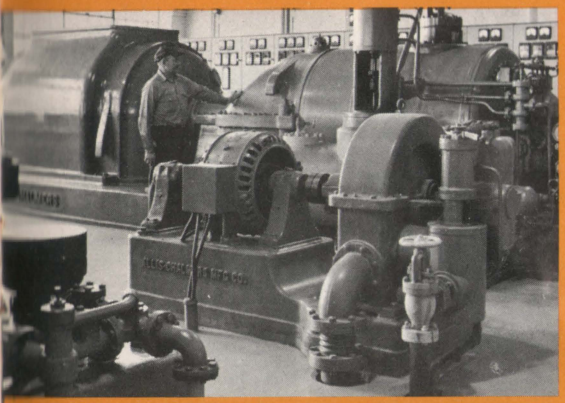


From the chipper with its rotating sets of eight knives, the chips pass through this screening to sort out odd sizes.

Chips are conveyed by an endless belt to barges which haul them to existing pulp mills. When the Weyerhaeuser sulphate mill is completed on an adjacent plantsite, the chips will be conveyed directly to this new plant.

Currently bargeloads of chips are sold to nearby Puget Sound pulp mills. Much of what had been mill waste is now chipped and becomes raw material for another industry.

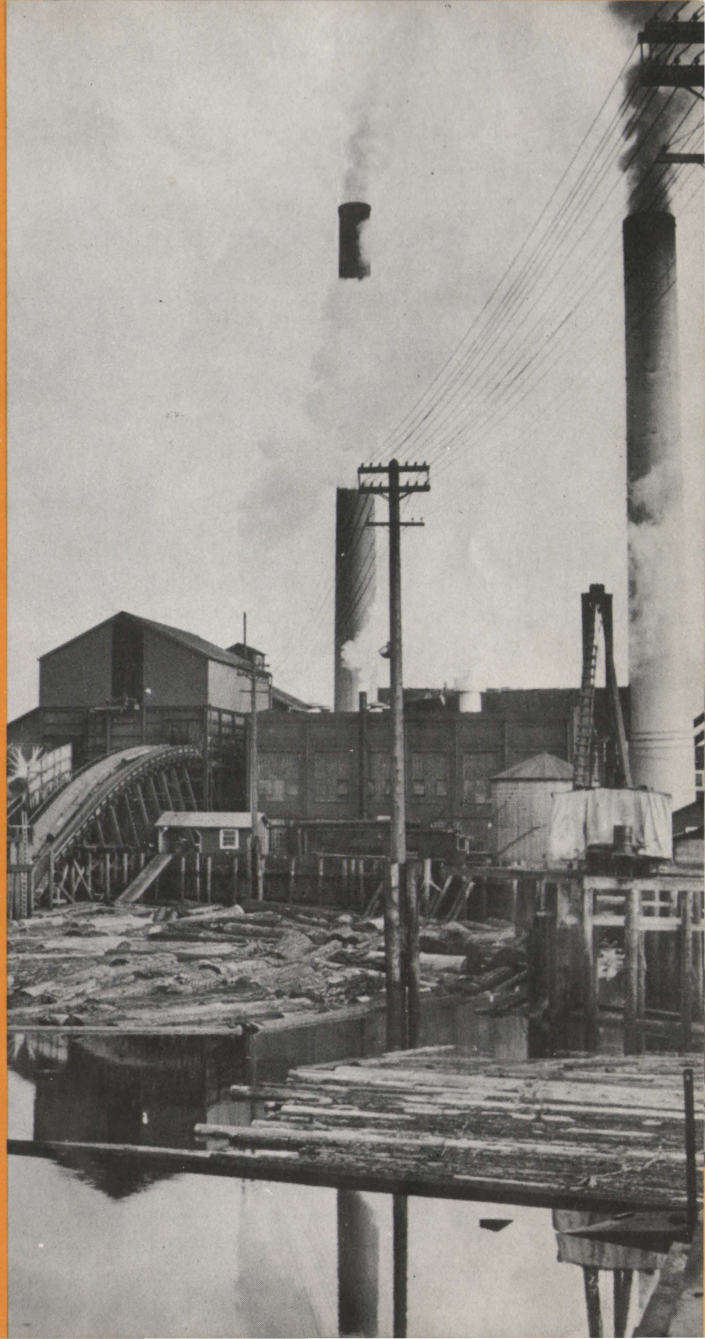
Generating Power . . .



The three powerhouse turbines generate enough electricity to meet the needs of a city of 50,000 people. They power the plant's 1900 electric motors.

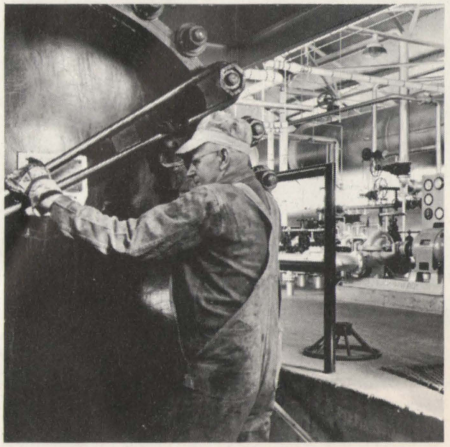
The eight powerhouse boilers generate 200,000 pounds of steam per hour. Log barker water pressure is furnished by a turbine-driven pump.

Powerhouse boilers are fired with bark, sawdust, and wood waste unfit for lumber and pulp chips. Men here are separating chippable pieces from mill waste.

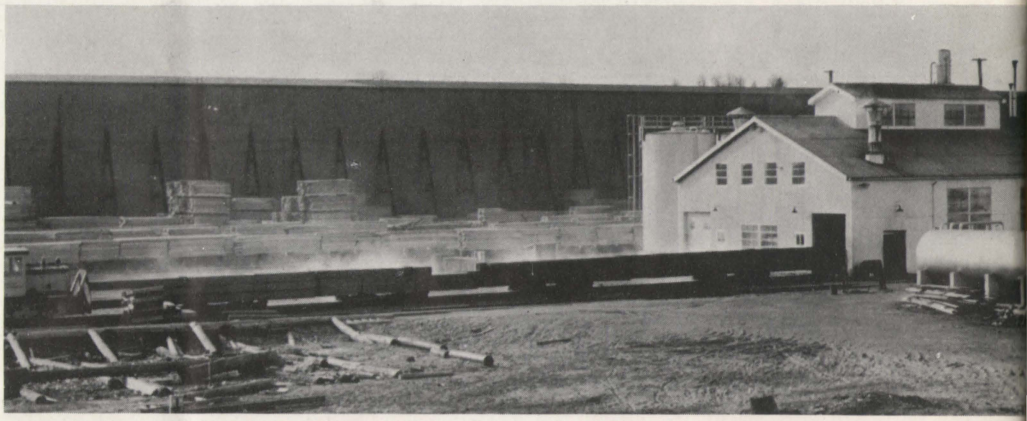


Treating Plant . . .

On Everett Lumber Division's millsite is a modern lumber treating plant, which chemically impregnates construction and railroad timbers for specific uses.



The treating plant has two retorts, one of which creosotes timbers, poles, and piling. The second retort Wolmanizes lumber which adds years to its usefulness.

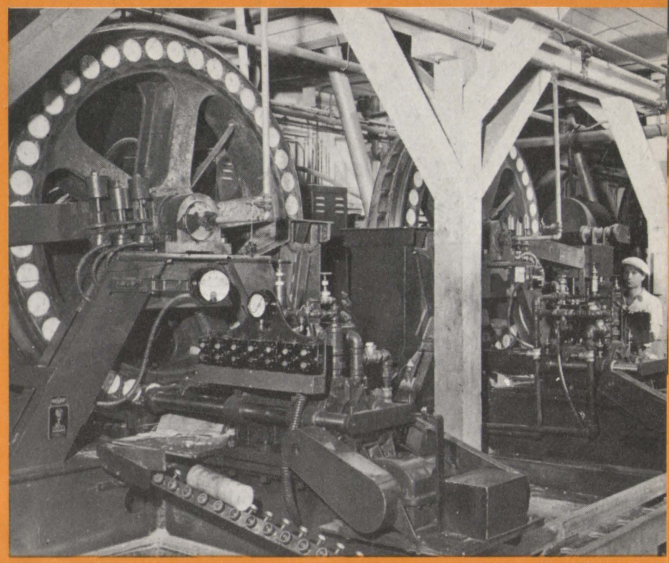


Everett's small-gauge industrial railroad engine here removes a 130-foot charge from the creosoting retort.

Pres-to-logs . . .

Pres-to-logs are three times the density of wood, and it takes 165,000 pounds pressure per square inch to mold them. This shed can hold 2 million logs.

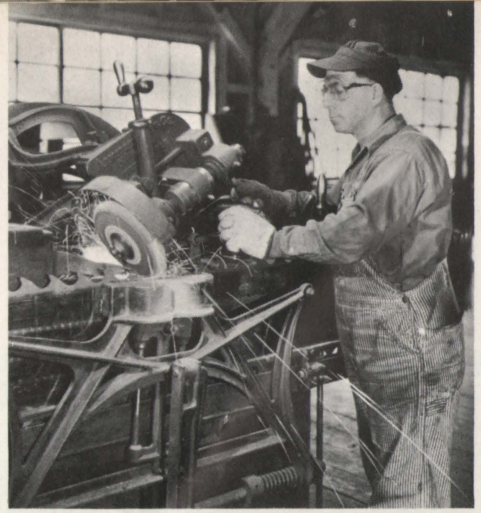
Weyerhaeuser Pres-to-logs, which weigh 8 pounds, are in great demand as fireplace and stove fuel. They burn cleanly and leave practically no ashes.



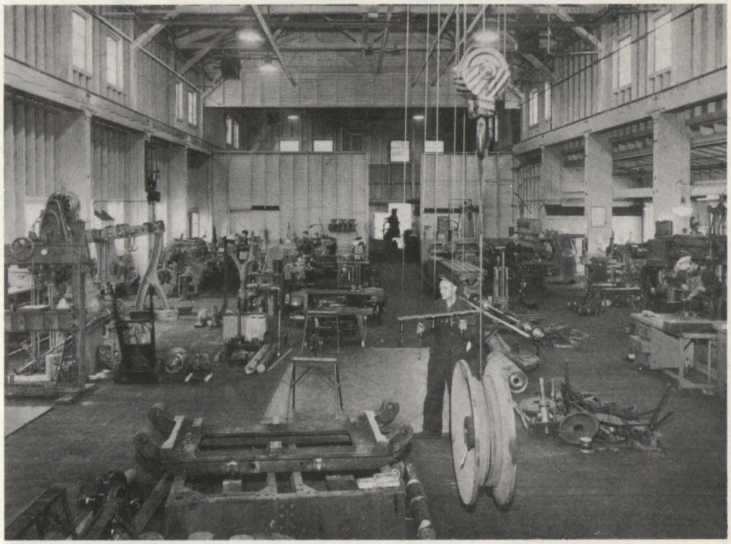
Dry, clean shavings and sawdust from the planing mill are taken to the Pres-to-log building where twelve machines make 160 tons daily of the world's cleanest solid fuel.

Filing and Machine Shop . . .

Here one of the headrig saws is being lowered to the band-mill below. This is one of the mill's four shops where its saws are sharpened and tensioned.



Sparks fly as the automatic grinder puts a new edge on one of the $1000, 400-pound headsaws. Note filer's safety glasses.



Everett's machine shop, among other things, contains one of the city's few remaining blacksmiths. This shop is completely outfitted to service all the mill's machinery.

Noontime in the cafeteria.

Employee Benefits and Activities . . .

The employee-owned and operated Big W credit union provides for savings or loans. Bob Anderson, manager, accepts deposit.

Employee safety is important to all. Here personnel manager, branch manager, hourly employee, safety engineer chat.

Registered nurses are on duty during both shifts to take care of first-aid. The mill has a fully equipped first-aid room for emergencies.

Safety shoes help prevent foot injuries. Eb Johnson fits a pair while Nurse Frances Record looks on.

Employees have many opportunities for job training. Head Grader Ernie Miller prepares for his class in grading.

Miller's lumber-grading classes are always well-attended. Branch training programs are tailored to meet the needs of nearly all employees.

Noontime often finds a hotly contested horseshoe game in progress. Many employees, after a hot lunch in the cafeteria, play cards or carry on daily "bull-sessions."

Everett Lumber Division employees enjoy a number of important benefits. They have 24-hour surgical and hospital insurance protection through the branch's Big W Medical and Hospital Association. Their families can be protected through the Blue Cross plan. The company pays for six holidays each year, regular vacations, life-insurance coverage, health and accident insurance. Employees can take outside courses for personal development through a company tuition-refund program, and employee sons and daughters can be eligible for collegiate scholarships through Weyerhaeuser Timber Foundation.

The Tree Farm Idea . . .

The lumber you saw in this mill was grown on a tree farm — a privately owned forestland area dedicated to the perpetuation of a great natural resource. Tree farms are pledged to sustained-yield management. They are protected from fire, from insects and disease by trained and skilled foresters. Timber is harvested as a crop on tree farms, and new trees are grown to replace the harvest. Tree farms grow the lumber for your home, the wood cellulose for paper, cellophane, and a host of other forest products you use every day. *Timber is a crop* — and the harvest can last forever.

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