

JOE RUBY

Interview 136a

Date unknown

Carolyn Elmore, Interviewer

Patsy Colbert, Transcriber

ABSTRACT: In this short interview with Carolyn Elmore, longtime Temple employee Joe Ruby reminisces about his 35 years with the company as a forester in Diboll and Pineland and as a data processor in Diboll. Mr. Ruby remarks about the Pineland merger between Southern Pine Lumber Company and Temple Lumber Company in the 1950's and the Time merger.

Carolyn Elmore (hereafter CE): Move up just a little bit. Okay.

Joe Ruby (hereafter JR): I am Joe Ruby. I started to work for Southern Pine Lumber Company in May of 1956. I now have 35 years of service with the company. I started to work as a district forester. I worked for a short time in Diboll and then transferred to Pineland. The merger of Southern Pine Lumber Company and Temple Lumber Company had just been completed and at that time the processing in Pineland was being converted from Temple Lumber Company to Southern Pine. I worked in the woods in Sabine County, Newton County, Jasper and San Augustine area for a number of years. Then I came from the woods into the Pineland office, worked there as a staff forester or administrative forester for a number of years until 1978, at which time I was transferred back to Diboll. In 1981 transferred from the Land & Timber Division into data processing where I am currently at. Now do you want me to go back and fill in the gaps?

TAPE STOPPED

CE: 1956.

JR: I had just returned from Korea in 1956, then I was married just a couple of months after going to work for the company. I just don't recall what the political conditions of the world were at that time. I know there was a war in Vietnam, but we didn't think we were involved with it that much. We thought it was mostly a French problem. We had a few advisors there, but just a handful. And that is really all I can recall of early 1956.

CE: You were out in the woods. You went to work first here?

JR: I worked here in Diboll. Actually when I was hired, it was with the understanding that I would be transferred either to Pineland or to Rusk. Since I was to be married in just a couple of months, they didn't move me until after we were married.

CE: Then you went to Pineland?

JR: Went to Pineland.

CE: And you were over there during the merger?

JR: I was over there on the merger process.

CE: Was that in '57?

JR: No the merger was prior to that. Best I can recall it had just been finalized in early '56 and they were still making a lot of personnel changes about that time. I know there were several people from Pineland that were moved from Diboll and several people from Diboll that were moved over to Pineland.

CE: What is the biggest change you have seen in the company?

JR: The biggest change?

CE: In thirty-five years.

JR: I would have to say, it would be the merger with Time.

CE: Can you talk about that a little bit?

JR: The merger with Time was brought about by the company's desire to acquire a paper mill. And we had worked, I say we, the Land & Timber section of Temple Lumber Company, had worked closely with Southwestern Settlement & Development, which was the land holding portion of Eastex. We bought saw timber from them; they bought pulpwood and chips from us. So we had a close working relationship. And at the time of the merger most of us were acquainted with each other. We had worked together on various projects at times or, you know, had been involved with timber sales and timber purchases. So the Land & Timber departments were acquainted with each other. So it was not a, working with totally unfamiliar people, it was just a matter of blending our message together into one operating procedure. So it was not a difficult transition, just time consuming, took a little while to work some things out but it went smooth.

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JR: Based on what I've seen the last few years, I think Temple Inland is going to be involved more in the financial world than they have in the past. Where it may be a major portion of Temple Inland rather than what we sort of think of now is just a small part of it. It may push up equal or maybe even greater than the Forest Products portion.

CE: Okay. The job that you do right now, say you are in data processing, what is your job entail?

JR: Okay, I'm a programmer in data processing. Most of my responsibility lies with pulp and paper sales system. I work in a group of data processing that is non-financial.

We have some financial dealings of course; you can't separate it. But primarily the group that I'm in works with production and those things that relate to the reporting of plant processes and things in that area, sales etc.

END OF INTERVIEW