

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE TEXAS LONG LEAF LUMBER CO.

In the fall of 1912 N. P. Sanderson, J. W. Ferguson, J. W. Reynolds, J. P. Towery, Alex Thompson, and others associated themselves together to form the Texas Long Leaf Lumber Co., a Texas Corporation with a capital stock of \$500,000.00 for the purpose of operating a yellow pine sawmill at New Willard, Texas.

The corporation purchased a large double band sawmill situated five miles north of Livingston, Texas that had been operated by the Thompson & Tucker Lumber Co., and at the same time the new corporation entered into a contract to purchase the timber on some 50,000 acres of land owned by Thompson & Tucker located in Polk County.

The mill was successfully operated through World War One and continuously increased its holdings of both land and timber. The operation was under the active management of Alex Thompson until he died in the early 20's, and then the management passed to Mr. Paul T. Sanderson, who later was elected President, and under whose guidance a program of expansion began that has resulted in The Texas Long Leaf Lumber Co. becoming one of the largest and most successful manufacturers of Yellow Pine and Southern Hardwoods in the South.

Under Mr. Sanderson's management the capital was first increased to \$750,000.00, and later set at \$1,500,000.00, where it is today. The additional money put into the company was used to purchase the sawmill properties of the Rock Creek Lumber Co. at Trinity, Texas, and the land and timber owned by Thompson Bros. Lumber Co. located in Trinity, Polk and Houston Counties. Another sizable purchase of some 50,000 acres of land and timber was made from the West Lumber Co. Later other deals were made with Wm. Cameron & Co., Carey, Haley & Co., and others until the company owns and controls over a quarter of a million acres of timber and timber growing land situated in six East Texas counties admirably suited to the growing of timber and adaptable to the practice of timber management.

The company practices a policy that will establish a sustained yield of yellow pine for generations to come on land that is best suited for timber growing. Fire protection is of first importance and the removal of defective trees, regardless of age or size, is only two measures of conservation that is the cardinal principal of preserving the wealth and assets of the timber growing territory.

Only sound pine trees 10" and larger, breast high, are cut into saw logs, and where possible at least one seed tree per acre is left on the ground. Great care is exercised in removing the saw logs to protect the young timber from injuries that stunt the growth or result in defective trees.

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Under the able supervision of Mr. Sam Crawford the company operates one large sawmill, equipped with two band saws and one gang saw in the mill, and dry kilns, sheds, planing mill, and equipment to manufacture 25 to 30 million feet per year at Trinity, Texas. Capably managed by Mr. Joe W. Richards the company also operates two sawmills at New Willard, Texas, one of which is equipped with a single band saw and the other with a circular and resaw, as well as sheds, dry kilns, planer and other equipment to properly care for and manufacture another 25 million feet each year.

One of the outstanding achievements of the company has been its notable contribution to the war effort, for which it was awarded the Army and Navy "E" by the Hon. Robert P. Patterson, Under Secretary of War "for your fine achievement in the production of war equipment."

The presentation was made in a very colorful ceremony at Trinity, Texas on March 17, 1944, conducted by Colonel Fred G. Sherrill, U. S. Corps of Engineers, Washington, D. C. This honor has only been bestowed on one other lumber manufacturing concern in the State of Texas, and on less than 3% of all the manufacturing plants, of all kinds, in the United States.

In order to take full advantage of their holdings the company has several large pastures and are running some 2500 head of native, but well bred cattle, on their lands, and that has proved a sound proposition and aids in carrying the taxes and timber expense during the period of reforestation.

The general office is located at Trinity, Texas, and the products of both plants are marketed by the Sabine Lumber Co., whose general office is also located at Trinity, and is under Mr. Sander-son's management.

It is the hope of the owners that these properties will fulfill their expectations, and provide lumber and employment for many years to come.

Written by Frank W. Sherrill in 1944.