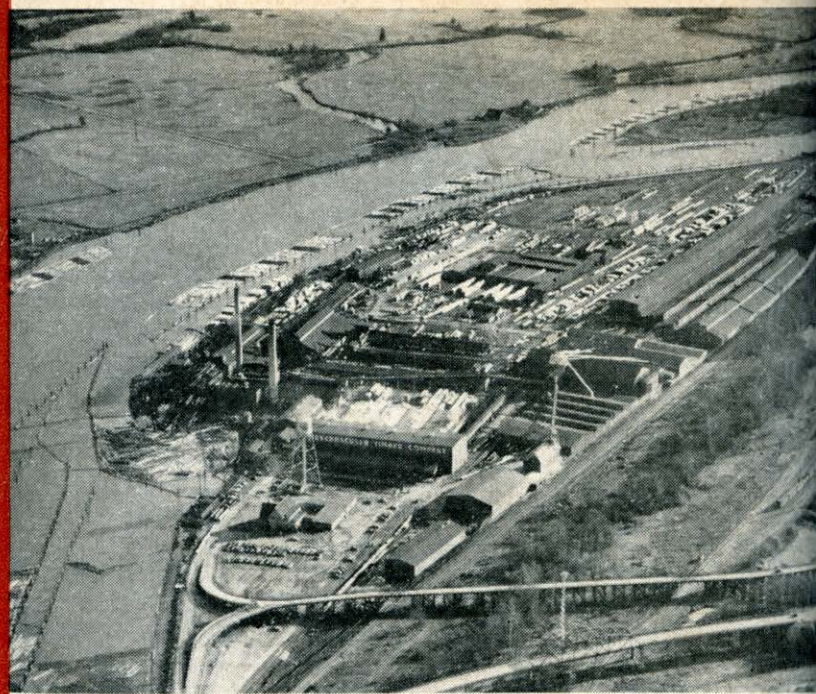




Fifty years ago the Everett mill looked like this



Today's mill is ultra-modern, employs 1100 persons

Everett's 50th Anniversary

The first WTCO sawmill operation in the Pacific Northwest celebrates a half-century of progress by inviting the whole city to an open house

THIS MONTH, THE MILL that launched Weyerhaeuser Timber Company in the sawmilling business celebrates its fiftieth birthday.

It was the year 1902, when Marconi was tinkering with his wireless and the Boers were at war with the British in South Africa that a new sign announcing a change in ownership went up over the Bell-Nelson mill on the shore of Port Gardner Bay, the waterfront of Everett, Seattle's lively northern neighbor. Horses driven by husky, mustached men drew loads of freshly sawn lumber around the mill yard, and teams of Scandinavians who were proud of their strength and endurance piled lumber entirely by hand to dry in the sun.

The B-N mill was renamed Mill A, and it was the first Weyerhaeuser sawmill in the Pacific Northwest. In 1915, when the Company built Mill B on the Snohomish River, which empties into the bay at Everett's northern limits, it was one of the largest and most modern electric sawmilling plants in the world. Twelve years later, Mill C began operation, and in 1936, Mill A was converted to a sulphite pulp plant. Still one of the world's most up-to-date, efficient forest-products plants, the Everett Lumber Division of Weyerhaeuser Timber Company produces enough



Harry Brown, chief power house engineer, has watched Everett Branch grow in 30 years he's been with WTCO



Board streets and false-front buildings were common sights in Everett at the turn of the century

lumber daily to build 50 five-room houses, or to load 30 boxcars to capacity. Its power plant turbines generate enough electricity to meet the needs of a city of 50,000 people. Approximately 1100 employees who share a payroll of more than \$4½ million yearly keep the mill furnishing the products which have helped build the nation's shelters and business places.

To celebrate its half-century anniversary, the Everett Lumber Division invited all comers to a five-day open house beginning June 16, which featured guided tours, souvenirs and a "fair" held in the Pres-to-log warehouse at Mill B. Here displays showed visitors some samples of not only the company's lumber products, but also items made from wood fibers.

Although the Everett Lumber Division of WTCO accounts for a good portion of the forest products manufactured in Everett, the city is not a "company town." A half dozen other major plants make pulp, lumber and remanufactured items from wood in Everett. The raw materials for the Everett Branch, logs from the Vail-McDonald Tree Farm, come to the WTCO mills by truck, railroad and salt-water rafts.

Part of the story of Everett's forest products history and WTCO's role in bringing the city to its present size could not be shown in displays. This part concerns the activities of those who help sell and distribute the products of Everett's mills, and the 53,000 other sawmills in America. These salesmen, representing competing mills and construction-materials suppliers, help American builders get the best materials at the most reasonable cost. In every dollar spent for

home building, for example, the cost of the raw material amounts to only 23 cents (based on the Dow Service Daily Building Report). Even in these times of inflation, the house which sold for \$5000 in 1938-49 and which sells now for \$11,250 contains materials which cost only \$2570 at the producer's delivery door.

One of the reasons why the cost of lumber has remained proportionately low even though total building costs have spiraled over the last ten years is the research and money that has been reinvested in plants, equipment and production processes. In 1915, the Everett Mill B was powered by 500 electric motors, an outstanding technical advance for its day, but now 1900 more powerful, more efficient electric motors are used in the mill. More lumber can be produced per man because of the improved machinery which has taken the hard work out of lumber production. Mechanical safeguards and improved safety programs have reduced lost-time accidents. Constant research has made it possible to get more out of logs, keeping costs to the consumer as low as possible.

Many of the people who toured Mill B this month were able to compare the present plant with some of the old-time sawmills which made possible the rapid growth of the Puget Sound country. Some of these mills have long since disappeared. But they were able to see during their tour that with the advantage of research and the sustained-yield plan of growing trees on a perpetual basis, forest products plants like WTCO's Everett Branch are only beginning their stay in Everett.

One of the newer mechanical aids for testing lumber quality is device which registers moisture content



Logs from Vail-McDonald Tree Farm are carried up Everett's log haul to powerful hydraulic barker

