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SPECIAL EDITION

The BUZZ SAW

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PUBLISHED BY AND FOR EMPLOYEES OF SOUTHERN PINE LUMBER COMPANY



Southern Pine Treating Division

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Southern Pine Opens New Treating Division In April

OCCUPIES 20 ACRES

This year, climaxing more than 50 years of progress and accomplishment, Southern Pine Lumber Company completed the addition of a new treating division, another feature in an over-all modernization plan.

With the addition of this division, Southern Pine is now ranked as one of the five lumber companies in the Southwest to own and operate a treating plant.

The new division is equipped to treat material according to any of the standard preservative methods in use today. The Rueping process which uses initial air pressure before the pressure period will be the process used most of the time. This process results in deeper penetration of the preservative for the same amount of preservative retained in the wood than any of the other processes. It also results in a cleaner treatment, and less "bleeding" of the preservative oil.

Penta Treatment

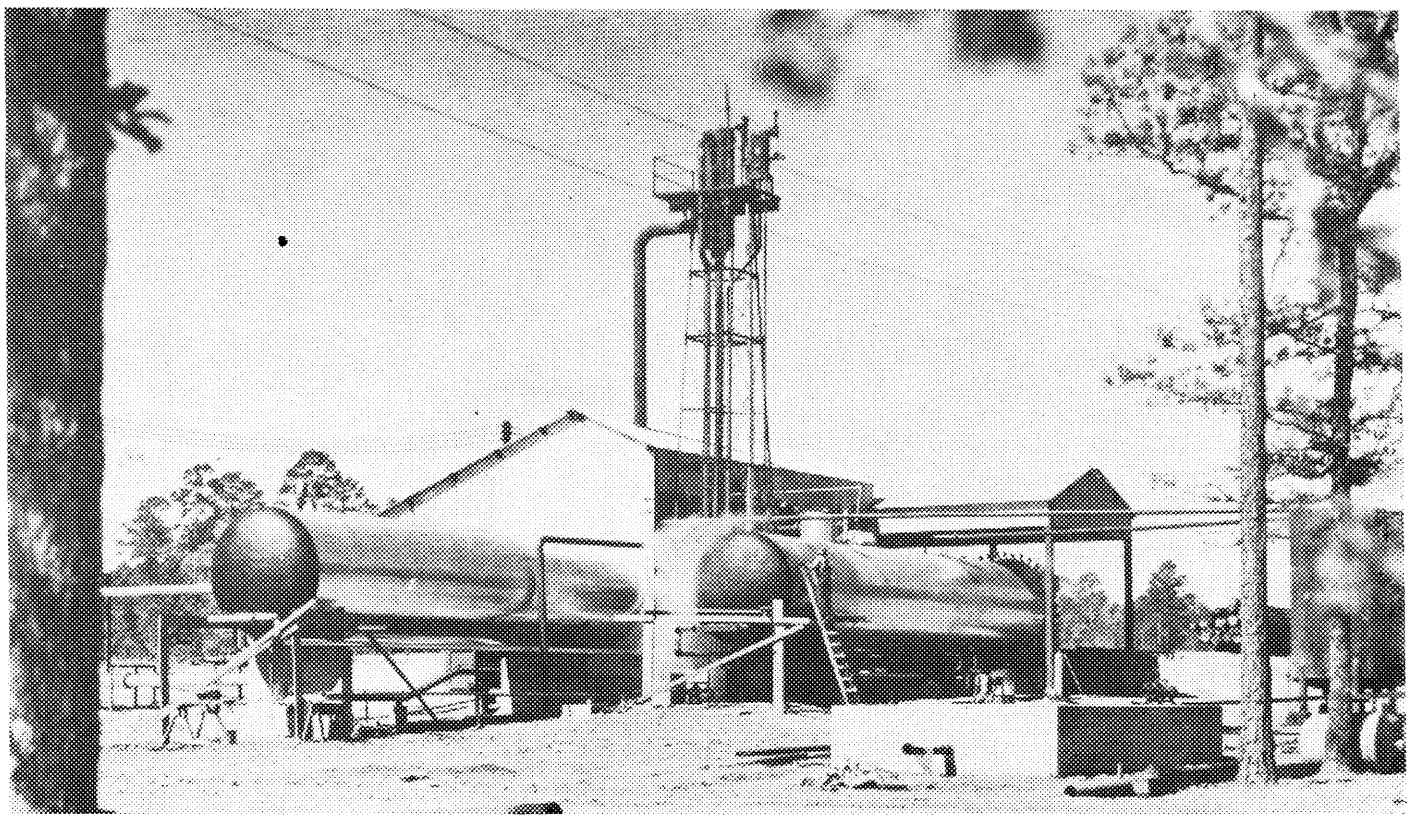
In addition to the creosote treatment, the plant is equipped to treat with pentachlorophenol solutions. Materials treated with the penta preservative are cleaner, lighter in color and do not burn the skin of workmen.

The plant's stock of creosote and penta preservatives are of top quality, and will be maintained at that standard through frequent checks at the plant laboratory.

Management

Johnnye U. Foster of Lufkin, Texas, is manager of the vast, new treating division. A graduate of the School of Forestry, Louisiana State University, he has been employed by the Kopper's Company, Wood Preserving Division at Texarkana. Before being employed by Southern Pine Lumber Company in 1949, Foster was district forester with the Texas Forest Service, headquarters in Lufkin.

The combination of technical training in the field of wood preserving and practical experience in the field of forestry and timber utilization ranks Foster as one of the leaders in the field of treating lumber.



GLISTENING IN THE SUNLIGHT are the two treating cylinders. The cylinder to the left is for creosoted material and is 87 feet overall length with an 8 foot diameter. The cylinder on the right is the penta cylinder and is 50 feet overall length, with the same diameter measurement. The hauling of these cylinders by truck from Shreveport, Louisiana, proved to be quite an interesting trip. These cylinders were among the last pieces of equipment to be installed at the treating division before the operations started. Also shown in the photo is the pre-fabricated steel building which partially encloses the cylinders and houses the treating machinery. At one end of this building is the laboratory.

Superintendent of the plant is C. F. Lord, veteran of 30 years experience in wood preserving work. Lord was formerly superintendent at the Kopper's Company, Wood Preserving Division, with plants at Alexandria, La., and Texarkana. He also has been employed by the King Lumber Industries Treating Plant, Canton, Miss., and the International Creosote Company, Texarkana.

In charge of the laboratory is W. C. George, while H. E. Whitman, an experienced treating engineer, will be head treating engineer.

Before definitely planning to construct a treating division, Southern Pine devoted a lot of study to the various types of plants which have been installed. One of the first concepts was to install a small package plant primarily for the treatment of lumber for the company's use and the retail lumber yards. This idea was discarded however, as impractical and not economical.

After more thought, more planning and more consideration of an economical size plant for efficient operation and availability of materials to be treated, the present commercial size plant was decided upon. This decision was reached in December 1949, and Johnnye Foster was hired.

Upon reaching the decision, various economic factors were considered and a close study of the perpetual timber supply which could be called upon to supply the plant was made.

Utilizing the timber from Southern Pine Lumber Company and Temple Lumber Company lands, the management felt that with an annual distribution of sixty to seventy thousand poles a plant could be maintained almost indefinitely. Along with this timber supply would be poles and piling purchased from outside producers.

Construction Started In 1950

The treating plant is located on the north edge of Diboll and occupies 20 acres of land. Construction started in April, 1950, beginning with the clearing of the site which was covered with timber, and the plant was completed in April, 1951.

The spacious pole yard is laid out to permit maximum of air drying of poles. Poles or lumber which have not been air dried must be steam conditioned while in the treating cylinder. Air drying allows shorter treating time, and enables the plant to produce larger shipments of treated material.

Interesting Feature

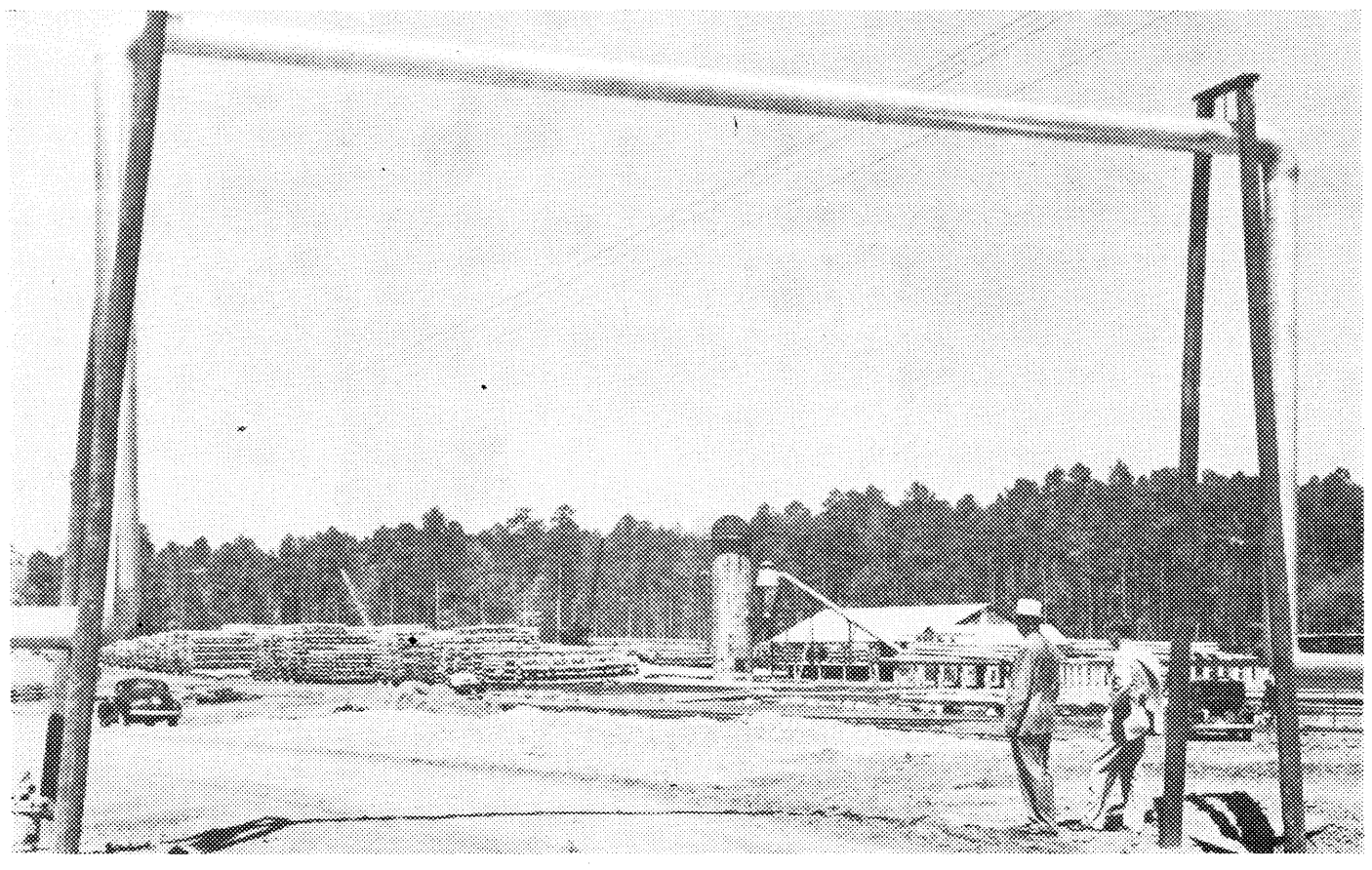
An interesting feature is how steam is supplied to the plant. Steam is supplied through a six-inch line from the Southern Pine power plant. One of the longest low pressure lines in the country, it is 3600 feet long.

The steam is piped from the power plant at 140 pounds per square inch, and the line is so well insulated that there is only a five pound per square inch pressure drop in traversing the 3600 feet.

Equipment used in the treating operation includes pumps, cylinders, air compressor, vacuum jet equipment, barometric condensors, complete instruments and pole peeling machinery. In addition, there are two creosote working tanks, one pentachlorophenol working tank, one creosote storage tank and one penta storage tank.

The creosote and penta cylinders were

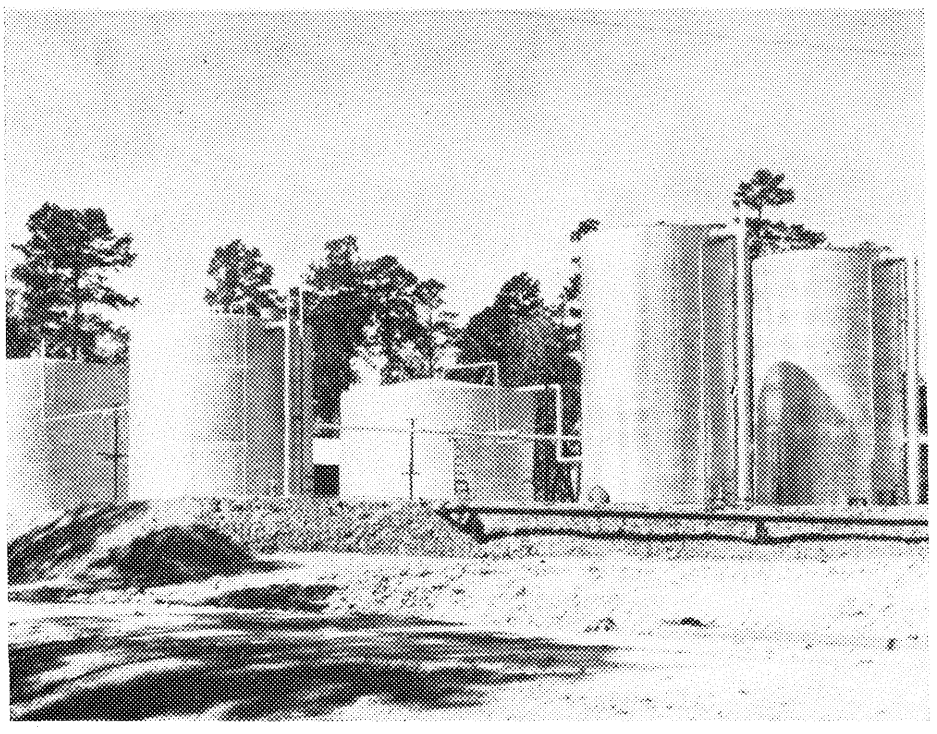
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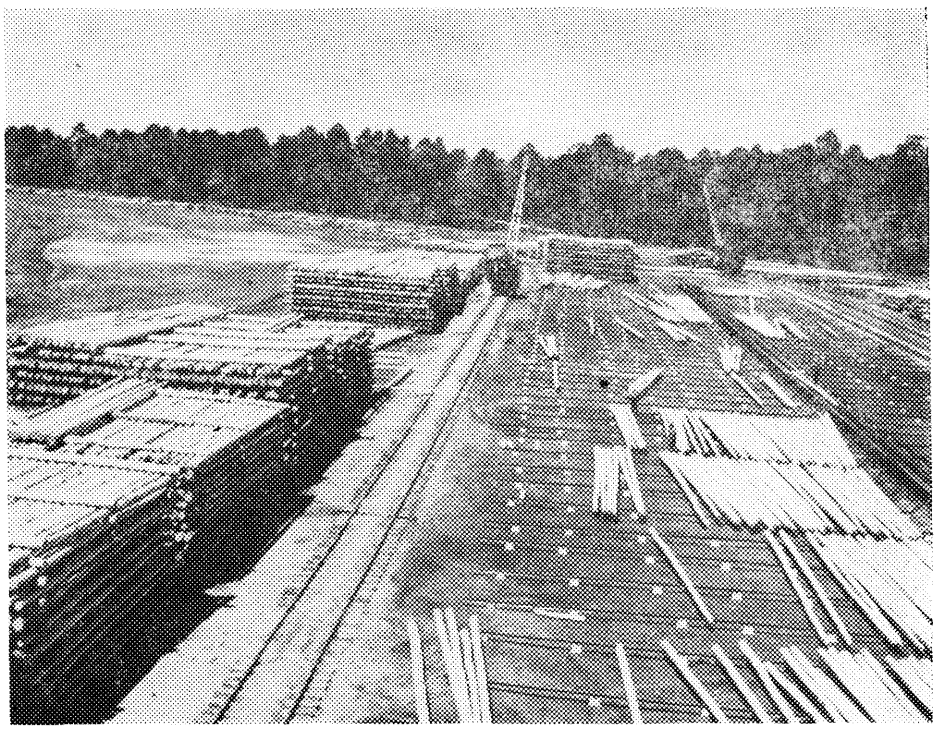
THE ABOVE PHOTOGRAPH SHOWS AN INTERESTING PORTION OF THE TREATING DIVISION — as from this angle can be seen the scenic pine tree setting. The picture shows the pole peeling building which houses the pole peeling machine and the unique conveyor which transports the peeled poles to their proper stack. Also visible in the picture is the huge incinerator which burns the shavings from peeled poles instantly. In the foreground of the photograph can be seen a section of the 3600 feet of pipe through which steam is piped to the treating division from the Southern Pine power plant. This line is one of the longest low pressure lines in the country and has proven quite effective.

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BRIGHT, SHINY ALUMINUM JACKETS COVER the five tanks which are shown in this picture. Two of the tanks are creosote working tanks, while one is the pentachlorophenol working tank. In the background are shown one creosote storage tank and one penta storage tank. The treating solutions are to be kept in top quality and up to standard specifications by frequent checks at the laboratory which is housed in the building which covers the treating machinery.



STRETCHING OVER A VAST PORTION OF THE DIVISION is the pole yard. This yard was laid out to permit maximum air drying of poles. Air drying allows shorter treating time and enables the plant to produce larger shipments of treated material. Shown in the background are two of the locomotive cranes which transport the lumber to the proper stacks for the drying process. These cranes are also used in pulling carloads of treated material from the cylinders.

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among the last pieces of equipment to be installed at the new treating plant. The creosote cylinder is 87 feet overall length with an 8-foot diameter, while the penta cylinder has the same diameter measurement and is 50 feet overall length.

These cylinders are located next to and are partially enclosed by a prefabricated steel building which operates the treating process. Inside the building can be found the pumps, air compressor, vacuum equipment and instruments. At one end of the building is the laboratory where the chemicals are checked to keep them in top working condition and up to standard specifications.

Divided Into Sections

The treating plant is divided into sections. One section is the pole yard where the air drying process is carried on, and another is the pole peeling area where the inner bark and knots are trimmed smooth on the poles. The third section is the treating department where the poles or lumber are treated, entering the treating cylinders for either the creosote or the penta process.

The main office building of the plant advertises its product as it is constructed of creosoted pine siding along log cabin designs. In this building are located the general office, an office for visiting inspectors, the secretary's office, the superintendent's office, and the manager's office.

A building of similar design and building materials is located nearby the office building. Here can be found a modern and up-to-date washroom for employees, equipped with showers and lockers. The building is divided into two sections: one for the white employees, and the other for the colored workers.

Employs 40 Persons

The treating plant employs approximately 40 persons, and operates 24 hours a day, six days a week.

Sales of treated lumber and fence posts are being handled at the Texarkana Sales Office of Southern Pine Lumber Company, while the sales of treated poles and piling are being handled at the Diboll division. Inquiries may be directed to either Temple Webber, Texarkana, or Johnnye U. Foster, Diboll.

Visitors are welcome at any time to tour Southern Pine's efficient and up to date treating plant in Diboll.

Complete Laboratory At Treating Division

At Southern Pine's Treating Division, housed in the treating building is a modern, well equipped laboratory where analyses of both creosote and penta treating solutions are made.

Frequent checks on the treating solutions are made in order to insure a high quality preservative and to keep constant check on the amount of water present in the treating solutions.

W. C. George, who is in charge of the laboratory, is trained in the latest analytical procedures for the analyses of creosote and penta according to the latest American Wood Preserving Association technique.

A small laboratory, the room is compact in every detail to provide the latest in lab equipment for the analyses. Color scheme prevailing in the room is of deep green, in keeping with one of Southern Pine's colors.

Mr. George stated that it takes approximately three and one-half hours to run a penta analyses, while it takes only three hours to run a creosote analyses.

On the penta analyses, the lab technician explains that the objective is to determine the amount of penta mixed with petroleum oil base. The analyses must show five percent penta for the oil to meet specifications.

For the creosote analyses, he said he runs a distillation test which determines what percent oil boils off at specified temperatures. Also for the creosote test, he runs an insolubles test, a coke residue test, a specified gravity test and a water test.

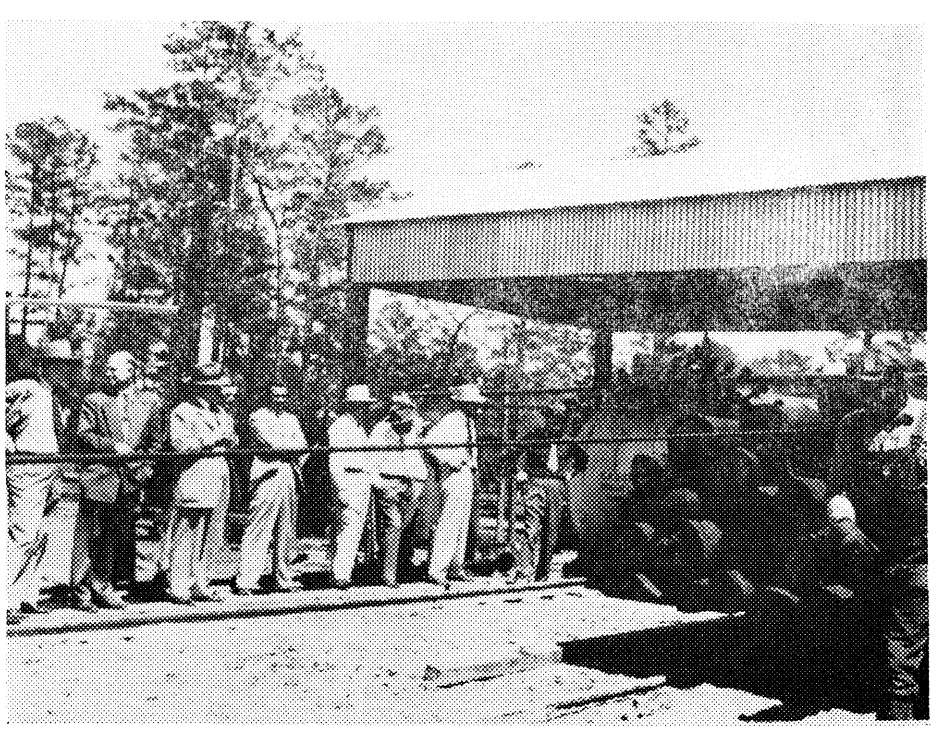
Among the equipment used at the Southern Pine Treating Division laboratory are an analytical balance machine, an O'Haus balance and an oven for baking crucibles. The lab has a lot of equipment to its credit for efficient tests too numerous to name.

The laboratory is another interesting feature of the newly constructed division which is playing an important role in the treatment of lumber at Diboll.

This complete laboratory is but another step in assuring customers of Southern Pine Treating Division that they will be furnished with high quality treated products at all times.



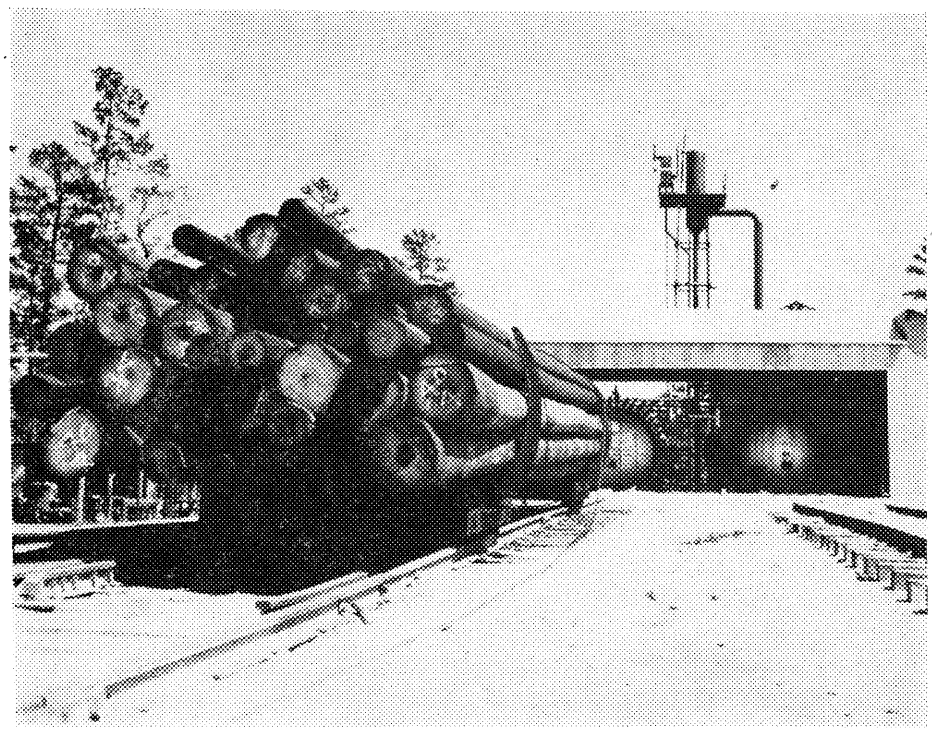
ANOTHER VIEW OF THE POLE YARD shows Southern Pine's system of stacking the poles for air drying. They are placed atop concrete and steel blocks and do not contact the ground nor decay producing organisms.



PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE WOOD PRESERVING INDUSTRY who were on hand for the opening activities, April 10, of the treating division, watch a charge of creosoted poles leave the cylinder after treatment.

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A CHARGE OF PENTA TREATED LUMBER is shown in this picture. Material treated with penta is cleaner, lighter in color and it does not burn or irritate the skin of workmen. Penta treated products are increasing their popularity throughout the nation with each passing day.

SPLC Overcomes Lumber Obstacle

Southern Pine Lumber Company, through their new treating division, can now offer customers treated lumber and by this fact is overcoming one of the great obstacles in the lumber industry.

The primary objective of the preservative treatment of wood is to increase the life of the material in service. This will decrease the ultimate cost of the product, avoiding frequent replacements in permanent and semi-permanent construction. The outstanding examples of increased permanence through such treatment are afforded by the products that are exposed to the most severe attacks of wood-destroying agencies.

The chemical treatment of structural timbers and other wood products used in construction has been developed to improve the serviceability of wood.

Consequently, treated timbers are now better able to compete with steel and concrete in many forms of construction, especially as long-time use of these other materials has revealed their shortcomings and the expense often connected with their proper maintenance.

Experience demonstrates that the prolonged service life obtained with adequately treated crossties, poles, bridge timbers and other forms of wood used in exposed situations in permanent and semi-permanent construction almost invariably results in a distinct financial saving to the consumers of these products, despite the fact that the treated material may be higher in first cost than acceptable untreated stock.

In the case of certain structural timbers, such as poles and the foundation supports of bridges and trestles, which are set in the ground and required to support definite loads throughout their service life, preservative treatment may have a special economic benefit. When used untreated, these forms of wood are subject to early and progressive deterioration by decay at the ground line, with an accompanying decrease in strength.

The protraction of the service life of timber by the application of suitable preservatives has had another very significant effect in the field of wood utilization, in that it has made available for use a rather large number of species which previously had been considered inferior solely, or primarily, because they lacked durability and gave only a short period of service when exposed to decay or to insect attack.

The adaptability to preservative treatment of woods that are naturally nondurable, but otherwise acceptable to the industries has not only increased the supply of timber available for construction purposes but has also brought about certain other benefits to both producers and consumers of forest products.

Southern Pine can treat lumber with either the creosote or penta processes and has all the modern equipment at its up to date plant to give the best of service.

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FORMAL OPENING HELD APRIL 10TH

A crowd of around seventy-five persons were on hand at the opening of the treating division at Southern Pine Lumber Company in Diboll, April 10.

Although actual operations at the plant had started April 2, the formal opening was scheduled April 10.

All persons attending were interested in the wood preserving industry and they were from throughout the nation.

Barbecue Luncheon

A barbecue luncheon was the highlight feature of the noon hour, after which Mr. Johnnye U. Foster, manager of the plant, escorted the guests on a tour throughout the newly-constructed treating plant. Foster explained the equipment, processes and materials used at the plant, and pointed out some of the particularly interesting features of the Diboll plant over others.

The group watched a charge of creosoted material being unloaded from the treating cylinder by crane and they saw the load of recently treated material travel by rail to the pole yard where the charge was tested for penetration. The charge was then stacked for a reasonable period of weathering before shipment.

Attending Opening

Among the persons attending the event were P. G. Whatty, Acme Fast Freight, Shreveport, La.; E. S. Damint, Southern Pacific Lines, Shreveport, La.; D. A. Mitchell, The Barrett Division of Allied Chemical and Dye Corp., New York, N. Y.; L. C. Barron, Cotton Belt Route, Houston; A. L. Gordon, Southern Pacific Lines, Houston; C. R. Williamson, Chapman Chemical Company, Houston.

J. C. Wheeler, Dow Chemical Company, Houston; N. W. McGaugh, T. & P. Ry. Co., Texarkana; Walter J. O'Neal, R.E.A. Hattiesburg, Miss.; R. L. McCutchan, R.E.A. Washington, D.C.; J. P. French, Gulf States Utilities, Beaumont; O. A. Boyer, Central Power & Light Company, Corpus Christi; R. S. Pace, Gulf States Utilities, Baton Rouge, La.; C. A. Perkins, Southwestern Labs, Shreveport, La.; Oscar P. Pate, Hemphill; H. L. Bell, Southern Pacific, Houston; K. P. Chinn, Southern Pacific, Houston; A. R. Delhomme, A. R. Delhomme Lumber Company, Houston; Malcolm McCulloch, McCulloch's Lumber Market, Houston.

Lawrence Henckel, Henckel Motor Lumber Co., Hitchcock; Herbert F. Adey, Southern Pine Lumber Co., Houston; Howard L. Varner, Southern Pine Lumber Co., Fort Worth; W. H. Shamburger, Buey-Ingrum Co., Fort Worth; C. F. Seyer, Kopper's Lumber Co., Texarkana; J. B. Baird, Southwestern Laboratories; Gordon Sears, Dow Chemical Co., Midland, Mich.; Dick Anderson, Dow Chemical Co., Midland, Mich.; Jack D. McCann, South-Tex Lumber Co., Houston; and H. E. Bovay, Jr., consulting engineer, Houston.

Those from Lufkin present at the activities were J. O. Burnside, Texas Forest Service; A. R. Guy, Texas Power Reserve; M. V. Dunmire and E. D. Marshall, Texas Forest Service.

Mr. Foster and Mr. Arthur Temple, Jr., vice president and general manager of Southern Pine Lumber Company, were official hosts for the opening day affair.

TREATING DIVISION IS STRICTLY MODERN

The treating division of Southern Pine Lumber Company has complete equipment and an adequate yard lay-out to assure proper peeling, handling, and framing of poles and piling orders.

From the time the pole is delivered to the yard, by either truck or rail, extreme care is exercised to see that the poles are kept from contact with the ground and decay producing organisms.

The poles are stacked or handled on steel and concrete skids all the way through the inspection, peeling, distribution, classification, stacking and framing stages.

Included in the machinery for processing poles and piling is an electric pole peeling machine to remove the inner bark and trim the knots smooth. The machine has four knives which are changed twice a day to keep them working effectively. These blades travel at 36 hundred R.P.M. Holding the pole in place during the peeling process are two huge rotary rollers.

As the poles are peeled, shavings are swept upward into a hood and are carried by a blower into a large incinerator which burns them instantly.

The framing which is done to the pole prior trimming including cutting of the gaens, boring of necessary holes and the cutting of present type of roof is accomplished by means of mechanical framers either under the steel shed or concrete skids on the yard utilizing smaller framer machines.

The system used to carry poles from the peeling and the framing shed and to separate them by lengths and classes is rather unique in the wood preserving industry.

This is accomplished by use of a 1200 foot long endless conveyor chain equipped with chanel iron cleats to carry poles. As the pole travels along the 600 foot length of the distribution ramp, men working on this ramp roll poles off on either side and onto steel and concrete bays according to the length of the pole.

One side of the distribution chain is reserved for poles 45 feet and shorter in length, while the other side is for poles 50 feet and longer in length.

Diesel powered locomative cranes are used to pick the poles up from the distribution bays and to stack them in the proper stack according to length and class on pole stacks which rest upon steel rails atop concrete blocks.

In these stacks, the poles are allowed to air dry for as long as practical to facilitate their treatment.

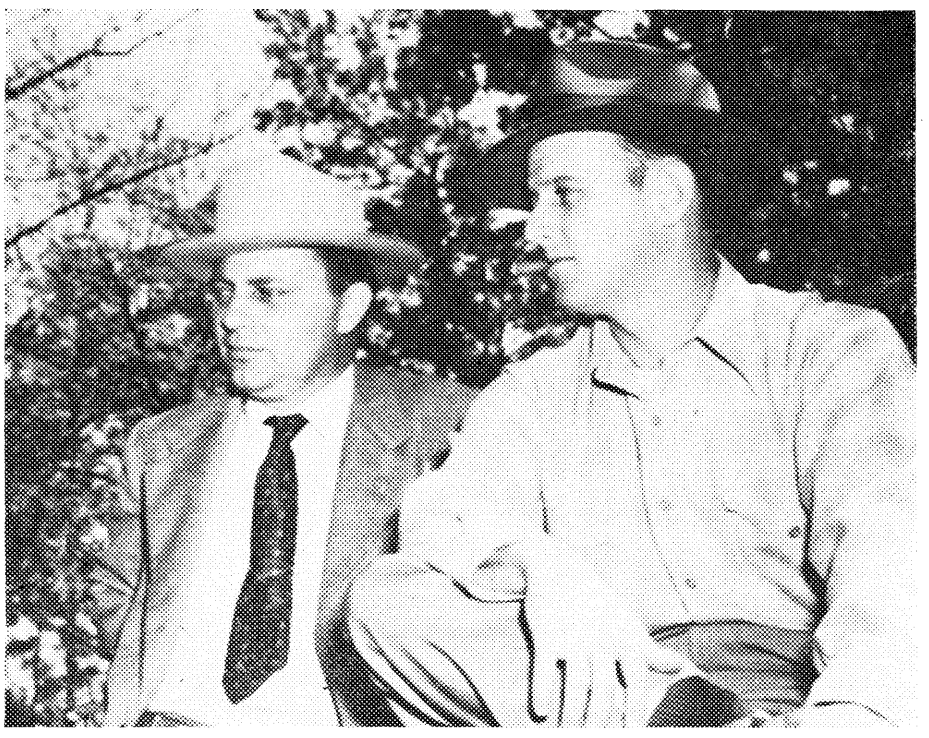
The pole yard set-up in use at Southern Pine Lumber Company Treating Division is one of the best laid out in the industry and air seasoning can be carried out with a high degree of success.

Approximately 60 percent of the total plant yard is set aside for the receiving, processing and seasoning of poles and piling to be treated.

At the treating division, there are 21 switches located on the two and a half miles of track to facilitate the handling of materials efficiently.

All tracks lead to the treating cylinderss which offers more speedy service.

Southern Pine is now equipped to ship treated lumber, to all parts of the country.



HOSTS FOR THE OPENING ACTIVITIES OF THE TREATING DIVISION are shown in this photograph. They are Johnnye U. Foster, (left) manager of the Treating Division, and Arthur Temple, Jr., (right) vice president and general manager of Southern Pine Lumber Company.

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