



Faye Abrams

1882-1954

Faye Abrams was born June 17, 1882, in Crawfordsville, Oregon. His parents, O.P. and Josephine B. (Philpott) Abrams, were Oregon pioneers in the early 1850's.

Abrams received his formal education in Linn County, Oregon, where he attended grade and high school. In 1902, fresh out of high school, Abrams hiked from his boyhood home over the hill to Wendling, Oregon, in search of a job. He found employment with the Booth-Kelly Lumber Company and, except as a visitor, did not return to his parents' home. On December 22, 1905, he married Diana Fox at Crawfordsville.

Abrams spent his entire career with the Booth-Kelley Lumber Company, distinguishing himself as a lumberman and an association principal during 50 years involvement in Willamette Valley lumbering operations.

He became superintendent of logging in charge of all Booth-Kelly timberlands in 1910. During a career spanning the next 40 years, Abrams served as a director of the Pacific Logging Congress.

Abrams' career-long commitment to forest conservation is best appreciated when one understands the economic conditions of the era. During the first 44 years of Booth-Kelly Lumber

Company until 1942, the firm showed total net earnings of only \$233,000, or about \$5,000 per year. This meager return on hundreds of thousands of dollars invested in timberlands, access roads, fire control and protection programs such as water holes and snag removal, reflected his confidence in the future of forestry.

It was not until World War II that a new phase of forest management emerged, brought about by a heavy demand for wood products and increasingly accepted applications of scientific forestry.

The returns on Faye Abrams' career of timberland supervision were increasingly realized late in Abrams' career. The merits of timberland regeneration and protection are evident today in the forested acreages, owned by Georgia-Pacific Corporation since 1959, that continue to produce crops of trees.

When the Booth-Kelly Lumber Company purchased most of the outstanding stock of the Oregon Pacific & Eastern Railroad Company in 1946, Abrams was elected vice-president of the railroad. He was named president of the line in 1947, a position he held until 1951. He continued to serve as a member of the OP & E Board of Directors during his lifetime.

The Eugene Country Club was fortunate to have captured the interest of Faye Abrams because, during its early years, the club faced severe financial difficulty. Abrams made a loan to the Country Club to assure its survival. Repayment of the loan was slow and difficult and it was not until the unlikely appearance of slot machines in the Country Club facility that the club had necessary funds to repay Mr. Abrams!

Mr. and Mrs. Faye Abrams, childless, had charitable interests that became evident after Abrams' 1954 death. Mrs. Abrams in 1959 gave \$50,000 to the Pearl Buck School, established a \$50,000 trust fund for the Eugene Children's

Hospital School, and gave \$10,000 each to the Oregon Trail Council of Boy Scouts, the Girl Scout Council, and the Central Lane YMCA. Mrs. Abrams' will, following her 1961 death, continued to reflect the Abrams' charitable interests with a \$50,000 bequest to the Pearl Buck School and a \$50,000 bequest to the Eugene Children's Hospital School. All gifts were in memory of Faye Abrams.

With a career that saw the advent of forest conservation as accepted practice, Faye Abrams was a forest leader who not only accepted but affected change. The forests of Oregon are more productive because of him.