



## *James D. Bronson*

1904-1982

James Bronson's contribution to professional management of the western forests is an important legacy to future generations.

James Bronson inherited his interest in lumbering from two Maine grandfathers, one of whom immigrated to Minnesota in 1854. Bronson was born and raised in Stillwater, Minnesota. He graduated from Yale University and the Yale University Graduate School of Forestry.

He started his lifelong career in the forest products industry in 1926 with Cascade Lumber Company in Yakima, Washington. Robert Slaughter, Cascade's president, taught him the wood products business from the woods to the manufacturing process to administration. Although his later career was focused in the board room environment, Bronson drove stakes with a timber survey crew, burned slash after loggers, mapped timber tracts, and cruised land to estimate stumpage.

His positions with the company included those of engineer, timekeeper, and cashier before he

became general manager in 1942. He helped steer the company through the Depression and World War II. In 1946, he and his brother David Bronson, Lester Lewis, Warren Bean, Martin McDonnell, and Stephen Moser purchased Cascade Lumber Company. James Bronson became president of the company and continued at the helm for 11 years.

In 1957, Cascade Lumber Company merged with Boise Payette Lumber Company of Boise, Idaho, to form Boise Cascade Corporation. James Bronson became assistant to the president and a director and served as director until 1975. As a member of the board, he helped to oversee the company's development to its present prominence in the forest products industry.

His knowledge of the forest products industry was recognized by his election to the presidency of the Western Wood Products Association, the American Forest Institute, and the National Forest Products Association.

Jim Bronson was also active in his community, serving terms as president and trustee of the Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital, director of the Bank of Yakima, and director of the Home Federal Savings and Loan Association.

An avid swimmer, Bronson was captain of the swim team at Yale and was chosen as a first alternate to the 1927 Olympics, which he declined in order to accept his first position with Cascade Lumber Company.

Mr. Bronson died on December 27, 1982. He is survived by his wife Marjorie and his children, Eleanor Pyle and James D. Bronson, Jr.