



## *Henry F. Chaney*

1886-1953

Henry F. Chaney was born in Detroit, Michigan on June 2, 1886. Although a midwesterner by birth, Henry Chaney became a giant in Oregon forestry.

Mr. Chaney came to Oregon in 1909 after receiving a degree from the University of Michigan Forestry School. He was first employed at such laborious jobs as rigging man, bull cook and foreman in logging camps near Coquille in Coos Bay County, Oregon. After two years of lumbering in Oregon, Mr. Chaney returned to the East to work in the bond department of the Detroit Trust Company handling timber securities. The years of 1912 and 1913 saw Henry Chaney travel through the Argentine and later return to the logging camps of Oregon with work along the Columbia River.

In 1914-15 and 16, Mr. Chaney again journeyed East and worked with Mr. Charles Stinchfield and Mr. David Whitney, Michigan lumbermen in Detroit. Then in 1917 Henry Chaney became Timberlands Manager and later General Manager for the Coos Bay Lumber Company at Marshfield, Oregon. It was during this time of Henry Chaney's

involvement with the Coos Bay Lumber Company that the historic Oregon and California Land Exchange Bill was enacted, which caused some 40,000 acres of privately owned timberland to be exchanged for an equal value of federally owned O & C lands.

In 1920 he became Vice-President and Western Manager of Baker, Fentress and Company, timber investment underwriters of Chicago. Later Mr. Chaney became Director and Chairman of the executive committee of Baker, Fentress and Company. He became known and will be long remembered for his organizational skills. His vision and leadership brought him to the helm of many forestry organizations. In addition to his involvement with Baker, Fentress and Company, Henry Chaney became Director and Vice President of Booth-Kelly Lumber Company and of Clover Valley Lumber Company; Director and Chairman of the Board of Coos Bay Lumber Company; Director and President of Medford Corporation. He was also Director of Cascade Plywood Corporation; Dant & Russell Incorporation; Pacific-Atlantic Steamship

Company; States Steamship Company and Western Cooperage Company.

Mr. Henry F. Chaney's emergence as a principal in Oregon lumbering caused the 'Oregon Voter' to follow Mr. Chaney closely. On October 21, 1953, a day after the death of Mr. Chaney, the 'Oregon Voter' had the following to say about Henry F. Chaney: "Henry F. Chaney was a gentleman of well-rounded, outstanding attributes of personality and high culture. His conversational ability fortified by good reading, wide information and world travel was so notable that in discussion, he enchanted by his resources of vocabulary and information. His major accomplishment was in reorganization of a large number of enterprises into high productivity and financial success with ever-present regard for labor relations so that workers would have a maximum of employment at wage rates that would enable them to share prosperity. As an industrial leader he was far-sighted with vision anticipating need and opportunity for establishment of refining processes which developed lumber manufacture into integrate production far beyond primary conversion of raw materials. His untimely demise leaves an

irreparable void in Oregon business. It was a shock and a poignant loss to a host of personal friends and admirers. To his many business associates and especially to his family, we extend heartfelt condolence. Henry Chaney was wise, able, humane and upright."

Henry F. Chaney died at the age of 67 on Tuesday, October 20, 1953. As a Portland resident for 35 years his distinguished career which had led him to offices and directorships of 11 corporations in the lumber and shipping industry came to an end at Good Samaritan Hospital after a short illness. The suddenness of Henry F. Chaney's passing is noted in the fact that he had returned only two months earlier from a big game hunting expedition in Africa.

In addition to his extensive and notable business involvement, Henry Chaney was a member of the Arlington Club, Waverley County Club, the Racquet Club and Multnomah Athletic Club, all in Portland.

Henry F. Chaney had five children – two daughters, Diane and Lynden; and sons Alger, Jon B., and Henry F. Chaney, Jr., who was killed in action in World War II.