



## *Wilson Warner Clark*

**1878-1968**

Wilson Warner Clark was born November 26, 1878, in Oxford County, Ontario, Canada, the son of Orange M. Clark and Mary Sophia Wilson Clark. At the age of four, he moved with his family to Big Rapids, Michigan. He attended public schools there and at Ewan, Michigan. In 1896 he graduated from St. John's Military Academy at Delafield, Wisconsin. He attended the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, during the years 1897 to 1901. After leaving college, he joined his father in the lumber business at Cheboygan, Michigan.

In 1905 Wilson Clark moved to Linnton, Oregon, and with his father, operated the Clark and Wilson Lumber Company, and the Goble, Nehalem and Pacific Railway Company. At Linnton, Douglas fir and hemlock lumber from Columbia River Valley timberlands was shipped to the Orient.

On January 20, 1909 he married Elizabeth Augusta Dooly, who was born November 19, 1885 at Ogden, Utah. She was the

daughter of Richard Maurice Dooly, born March 29, 1855, At Waukegan, Illinois, and Mary Elizabeth Helfrich Dooly, born June 24, 1859, at San Juan, California.

In 1915 Wilson Clark moved with his family into nearby Portland, where he continued to maintain his home.

In 1920 the Clark family became interested in the Willamette Valley Lumber Co., which was then owned by Louis Gerlinger and Henry Pittock. The Pittock interest was purchased by Orange and Wilson Clark, resulting in equal ownership by the Gerlinger and Clark families.

After the death of his father in 1929, Wilson Clark became president of the Clark and Wilson Lumber Co., and continued its operation until lack of available timber forced its closure in 1947. During this time he was also vice-president of the Willamette Valley Lumber Company, at Dallas, Oregon.

In 1946 George Gerlinger and Wilson Clark formed the Willamette National Lumber Co., at Foster, Oregon to produce lumber under contract from the Louis W. and Maud Hill Family estate timber. Upon the death of George Gerlinger in 1948, Wilson Clark became president of the Willamette Valley and Willamette National Lumber Companies, and in 1951 became Chairman of the Board of Directors. In 1955 these two companies were merged into the Willamette Valley Lumber Co.

During this period the Willamette Valley Lumber Co. expanded its operations by the acquisition of the Western Veneer and Plywood Co. at Lebanon, Oregon; a partial one-third interest in the Santiam Lumber Co. of Sweet Home, Oregon; a major interest in the formation of the Western Kraft Paper Co. at Albany, Oregon; the Fisher Lumber Co. at Marcola; and the Carlton Lumber Company at Carlton, Oregon. In 1957, in order to help meet the changing demands of lumber manufacture and wood utilization, a plywood mill was added to the Dallas plant, and in 1958, plywood mills were built at Foster and Carlton.

Through the years Wilson Clark served as a director of the West Coast Lumberman's Association, the Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau, and the Portland Chamber of Commerce. Many other community and lumbering activities also occupied his time.

In 1948 Elizabeth Dooly Clark, wife of Wilson Clark, and mother of his three children, died in San Francisco on August 3, following a year's illness.

In 1949 Wilson Clark married Margaret Mears Rupp, widow of Norman H. Rupp of Portland, and daughter of Samuel Maxwell Mears and Laura Saview Mears of Portland.

Mr. Clark, when Chairman of the Board of Directors of Willamette Valley Lumber Company, had around him such men as William Swindells, Coleman Wheeler and Ira Keller, all top men in their field. From this energetic association, Western Kraft Corp. and Duraflake Company at Albany were built. Brooks-Willamette Corporation at Redmond and Bend was another. Santiam Southern Company of Louisiana, their first entry in the plywood market in the South, was still another mill in which Wilson Clark was interested.

As Western Kraft Corporation extended its lines into California and the eastern part of the United States, it became apparent that a merger of all the companies into one common complex would simplify the operation. This merger took place March 3, 1967 and is known as Willamette Industries, Inc. Wilson Clark, in his 89<sup>th</sup> year, was elevated to Chairman Emeritus of the Board, on the date of the merger.