



Minot Davis

1879-1952

Always considered a 'New England type' Minot Davis, a native of Massachusetts, came to the Pacific Northwest as a young man. He was educated at Harvard, and experienced as compassman for a northern Minnesota pinery, the Swan River Logging Company. In 1901 he had decided to move on, and joined a survey party for the Northern Pacific Railroad in the State of Washington. The railroad was finishing its Yacolt branch in southwest Washington, and he was a member of the crew in September, 1902, when the big Yacolt fire came, "and" in his own words, "the day like night. I was then timekeeper for the track laying crew, and we were camped in tents in the canyon of the East Fork of the Lewis River. Full darkness had come by noon. We quit work at noon and wondered what it was all about. A few thought it was judgment day." Davis and the others escaped safely but later that day the fire swept their camp.

Due to the big fire, Geo. S. Long, representing the Weyerhaeuser Timber

Company, formed a logging company with others who owned forest land in the burned area for the purpose of trying to save their burned timber. Davis met Long in 1904, and after finishing his railroad job in that year, he began working for Long at Yacolt as surveyor and timber cruiser. Long then made him logging engineer, and he became expert in locating railroads. Except for three years buying and selling timber with C.H. Davis, Jr. (no relation) of Portland, he worked for Long for all of his early years in forestry.

Recognizing Davis' talent and capacity for learning, Long moved the young man to

Weyerhaeuser's Tacoma office in 1910 and expanded his position to manager of woods engineering and of all field men. In Tacoma his responsibilities were extensive: he had 15 to 20 cruisers working for him and he oversaw the locating of all of Weyerhaeuser's logging railroads. One of the logging operations he helped organize and manage was the

Clemons Logging Company, a subsidiary of Weyerhaeuser's in existence between 1919 and 1933. During his years as manager of logging operations he worked closely with Geo. S. Long and later with J.P. Weyerhaeuser, Jr. and his familiarity with the company increased. His final position with Weyerhaeuser and title of many years, until his retirement, was Manager of Forest Lands and Timber Department.

Everyone liked doing business with Davis because he kept himself informed and made himself informative. He liked dealing in facts, and didn't like to waste

time. Consequently his manner was brusque, simply to the point. It was his meticulous honesty and his excellent memory and judgment that made and kept him attractive in business. He had the gift of foresight in forestry and so he was aggressive in business. He retired in 1947 at the age of sixty-eight, a man whose character and talents the forest products industry was fortunate to receive.

He died on April 4, 1952, and was survived by his wife, Nelsie Bennett Davis, a native of Tacoma, and three children, Nelson and Edwin Davis and Virginia (Davis) Wight.