



## *L. J. Forrest*

1904-1976

From the time Leonard J. "Len" Forrest laced his first "corked" shoes in 1926, he spent most of his life in the woods in a variety of jobs that eventually led him to become general manager of the Northwest Timber Division of ITT Rayonier.

It was this position he held at the time of his retirement in 1972 from the company and from 45 years in the forest products industry. It was a way of life that led him to observe: "A man who has not at one time been involved in timbering has led a wasted life."

Born November 8, 1904, in Tacoma, Washington, Forrest first set foot in Grays Harbor in 1925. He was visiting a sister and didn't have plans to stay long. He never returned to Tacoma to live.

In 1926, while still a student at Washington State College (now Washington State University), he went to work as a logger for Polson Logging Company. There he began a career that would see countless changes in the growing and harvesting of timber: the surrender of the giant Douglas fir to the persistent hemlock; the emergence of diesel to replace steam power on logging railroads and

in the woods; the coming of the log truck; and the development of the chain saw.

In 1948, when Rayonier acquired the Polson firm, Forrest was named manager of the land department. He was responsible for the consolidation of the holdings of the two companies, holdings that consisted of more than 400,000 acres of the Northwest's choicest timberlands. It was under his management that Rayonier's program of forest management for multiple use and conservation was forged and put into action.

Ten years later, Forrest was made manager of Rayonier's Northwest Timber Division, placing on him the responsibility for all Northwest timber operations of the firm. Three years later, in 1961, he was elected a vice president of Rayonier, Inc., and was charged with additional duties over the firm's Northwest operations.

Through the years, Forrest's views were sought by many. He was a frequent speaker on timberland management practices before several regional and national audiences.

Among his many services was the presidency of the Industrial Forestry Association in 1966-

67. In its continuing efforts to work out problems with government agencies, during Forrest's term the Association worked on third-party scaling, suggested tighter extension policies, helped eliminate escalation on national forest timber sales in the Douglas fir region, reactivated its efforts in behalf of salvage because of the Oxbow fire and countless other activities.

In addition, Forrest was interested in community affairs. He was one of the founders of the Hoquiam Loggers Playday and was instrumental in its growth. He was a founder, too, of the Timberman's National Bank of Hoquiam. Later, the bank was acquired by the National Bank of Washington

and, in turn, merged with Pacific National Bank.

Forrest served on the board of directors of the Washington Taxpayers Association and the Timber Operators Council for several years. He was a past president of the Association of Washington Business and was a board member of Western Forest Products, a Canadian subsidiary of ITT Rayonier, and Peninsula Plywood Company of Port Angeles.

Forrest and his wife, Claribel, had two children.

He died in September, 1976.