



Edmund Hayes

1895-1986

Edmund Hayes was uniquely successful as an independent lumberman, an officer and director of the Weyerhaeuser Company, an association leader, and as an industrial forestry advocate. Many community organizations benefited from his unassuming, strong support.

Edmund Hayes was born in Eau Claire, Wisconsin on May 7, 1895, the son of Dr. E.S. Hayes and Miriam Ingram Hayes. His grandfather was Orrin H. Ingram, a fierce competitor of Frederick Weyerhaeuser in the struggle for Wisconsin pine. Ingram later became a Weyerhaeuser associate. He was a founding shareholder of the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company that now is the Weyerhaeuser Company.

Ed Hayes entered Princeton University in 1914 after graduation from Phillips Academy, at Andover, Massachusetts. He interrupted

college to serve as a Captain in the infantry during World War I, returning to graduate when the war was over. After attending Harvard Graduate School of Business, he headed west where the lumber industry was thriving. Weyerhaeuser Timber Company employed him as a compassman in 1920, then as a logger for the Clemons Logging Company, a Weyerhaeuser subsidiary and finally as purchasing agent for the Snoqualmie Falls Lumber Company, another subsidiary.

A most unusual opportunity briefly interrupted his work. The legendary George S. Long, General Manager of Weyerhaeuser, assumed training responsibility for four young people: his own son, George, Jr., brothers J.P. (Phil) and Frederick Weyerhaeuser and Edmund Hayes. The senior Long variously referred to his students

as “The Big Four,” or his “Kindergarten.” In any case, the young men doubtless received an honors course in the lumber business. Ed would recall one day in particular when he and Mr. Long were in Seattle to attend a meeting. As they hiked down a busy street, the instructor lectured on the art of cruising (estimating) timber using telegraph poles in place of forest trees, oblivious to the stares of onlookers. Wherever the classroom and whatever the subject, the lessons were excellent and were well learned.

In 1925, he married Anna van Rensselaer Wheeler of Portland. They were to build a home there and raise a daughter and three sons, a close and happy family.

At this point Ed came to a fork in the road: should he enter business for himself or remain with Weyerhaeuser as did his cousin and close friend, Charles H. Ingram; he chose to start his own operation.

He bought stumpage at Beaver Creek, Oregon and built a small sawmill, calling it Clackamas Fir Lumber Company. The first lumber order was for a shipload of No. 2 and better 2x4, rough green fir dimension, FAS Portland at \$24 per thousand board feet. The mill operated from 1931 to 1939, through the worst of the Great Depression. In 1939, he organized Row River Lumber Company of Dorena, Oregon with Robert Noyes and Don McGraw, his brother-in-law. They built a sawmill on the Row River, east of Cottage Grove, Oregon that they operated until its sale to Booth Kelly Lumber Company in 1948. Later, he and Bob Noyes bought 6,500 acres of young, second growth fir and hemlock near Jewell, Oregon, naming it Elk Mountain Tree Farm. It was certified as a West Coast Tree Farm by the Industrial Forestry Association on March 8, 1955. It operated as an active, industrial tree farm until 1964 when Crown Zellerbach Paper Company purchased it to block up their holdings.

In the 1930s and 1940s, the Douglas fir region operators led efforts in fire prevention and reforestation. Ed was an early apostle and was active in the trade associations. He was president of the West Coast Lumbermen’s Association in 1938 and 1939, using the position to promote industrial forestry and to stress the importance of a formal plan of forest conservation. The Western Forestry and Conservation Association elected him president for 1945. During 1948 and 1949, he was chairperson of the Joint Committee on Forest Conservation, the forestry arm of the West Coast Lumbermen’s Association and the Pacific Northwest Loggers Association. He was a founder of the Keep Oregon Green Association, the first president and a member of its board of directors for 45 years. The KOG trustees established the Edmund Hayes Award in 1981 that is given annually to recognize outstanding achievement in forest fire prevention.

His advocacy was more than theoretical. Shortly after organizing the Row River Lumber Company, Ed and five other independent lumbermen established Willamette Valley Tree Farms. This was a cooperative association of small owner-operators doing together what was not possible individually, obtaining professional forest management advice for their properties, with emphasis on fire prevention and reforestation. It was incorporated on November 7, 1941, in advance of the national tree farm movement and the West Coast Tree Farm certification program. Ed Hayes was president of Willamette Valley Tree Farms for ten years. Walker B. Tilley was the original Chief Forester followed by Paul M. Sanders.

The great Tillamook fires of 1933, 1939 and 1945 ravaged 354,936 acres of western Oregon. Ed was a leader in the efforts to restore the region to productivity, a campaign that succeeded when the voters of Oregon authorized the largest forest rehabilitation

project until that time. At the July 18, 1949 dedication ceremony, as Chairman of the Joint Committee, he followed Governor Douglas McKay to the podium. His remarks were simple and direct. "We have the land. We know how to manage it. The nation needs our forest products. It is in our hands to mix these ingredients with intelligence and cooperation so that Oregon's productive forest soils will make their destined contribution to society forever."

Throughout these busy years, the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company also benefited from his knowledge and experience. In 1938, Phil Weyerhaeuser invited his friend to become the first West Coast director of the company. Phil looked to Ed for leadership in the company's growing commitment to forestry as well as an increased involvement in Oregon. Indeed, Ed would serve as Vice President for Oregon Operations from 1946 to 1957. Later, he was Chairman of the Executive Committee of the company until his retirement from the Board in 1965.

As interested and committed as he was in industry and forestry matters, he did not limit his contributions to those areas. He served as president of Canmore Mines, Ltd., Canmore, Alberta, from 1938 until 1986, as a director of the U.S. National Bank of Oregon, as a director of the Multnomah County Library Association and as a trustee of the Medical Research Foundation of Oregon. An early supporter of Sea Scouting, he helped establish the first Sea Scout Ships in the Portland area and served as Commodore. He was a member of the Executive Board of the Portland Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America who honored him with the Silver Beaver Award.

He was a founder of the Western Forestry Center (now World Forestry Center). When fire destroyed Portland's Forestry Building in 1964, Ed Hayes accepted major responsibility in obtaining the community and industry support which produced the new facility. He

later served as both President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Center. His enthusiastic participation continued through the years. The Center's Magness Memorial Tree Farm, which was developed with his guidance and dedication, epitomizes his belief in practical history.

No account of Edmund Hayes' life would be complete without mentioning his love of sailing. He owned several small sailing boats through the years and sailed extensively on the Columbia River and on the coast.

Ed Hayes also loved history, particularly that of the Pacific Northwest. He was a scholar of the exploration of the Northwest Coast and the history of the fur trade. In 1937, Admiral Samuel Eliot Morison, the historian and author, joined Edmund and Anna Hayes on a sailing trip to the West Coast of Vancouver Island. They researched the place where Captain Gray wintered after he discovered the mouth of the Columbia River. In 1981, the Oregon Historical Society published *Log of the Union: John Boit's Remarkable Voyage*, a beautiful work edited by Ed Hayes. He was a Life Member of the Society, served as Chairman and was a Board Member until just before his death. He commissioned, and donated to the Society a number of paintings and models of the vessels used by the early traders and explorers.

He had a reputation for sincerity and integrity. He was famous for remembering those he had worked with years before, keeping in touch with them and their families. He was kind and thoughtful.

Apparently, Ed Hayes' only limitation was lack of time. It ran out in 1986 when he was 91. He never ceased learning and looking ahead and had a wonderful capacity for making ideas work. His own contributions were far more impressive to others than to himself. They were important to Ed, only if they helped others live better and fuller lives.

In the course of his life, Edmund Hayes never experienced the slightest difficulty being both a lumberman and a gentleman. He valued independence but appreciated the importance of cooperation. His love for both sea and forest seems to have been an expression of a conviction that the enjoyment of such beauty is a product of knowledge and devotion. Few have arrived at the end of the days with more knowledge and with greater devotion.