



## *Julius P. Hult*

**1884-1963**

Julius P. Hult's role in Oregon's lumber industry began as that industry really got underway near the beginning of the century. Until, 1990, only about 12 billion board feet of timber had been run through sawmills in Oregon, an amount equal to one-and-a-half years' supply at the rate of use during the decade of the 1960s and early 1970s. Julius Hult moved to Colton, Oregon, with his family – his mother and father, three brothers and two sisters – from Nebraska in 1904. His birthplace had been Swede Home, Nebraska.

His father bought a small water-powered sawmill at Colton and turned it over to the four boys, all of them raised on a Nebraska farm, to operate. Undaunted, Oscar, Julius, Phillip and Melvin fell hard to work, and Julius' first job in the mill was to haul

sawdust out from under the headsaw in a cart powered by a mule named Budweiser.

Several families moved from Nebraska to Colton with the Hults. These same people had also emigrated from Doderhult, Sweden, to Nebraska with Julius' father, Nils Peter Hult, and the group established a Swedish community at Colton. Julius married his Swede Home sweetheart, Freda Toline, in 1905 and raised their family – two boys and two girls – at Colton.

The Hult brothers continued their successful lumbering operation at Colton, at Mulino and at various other locations in the immediate vicinity until 1925. They closed all of their operations in that year and went separate ways. Julius moved to Lane County and with his eldest son, Carrol, operated a sawmill at

Vaughn, some 20 miles west of Eugene. In 1928, he moved his operation 20 miles east of Eugene to Lowell on the Willamette River. He carried on his operations there until 1933, when his two sons Carrol and Nils – joined him in moving the sawmill to Horton, some 40 miles west of Eugene. In 1928, he moved his operation 20 miles east of Eugene to Lowell on the Willamette River. He carried on his operations there until 1933, when his two sons – Carrol and Nils – joined him in moving the sawmill to Horton, some 40 miles west of Eugene in Lake Creek Valley.

Carrol died in a logging accident in 1947. Julius was associated with his younger son, Nils, for the next 17 years. His firm at the time of his death in 1963 was Hult Lumber and Plywood Company with headquarters in Junction City.

Julius Hult was an active member of the early Willamette Valley Lumbermen's Association based in Eugene. He helped organize it and was a strong supporter of it until its merger into the West Coast Lumbermen's Association in the mid-1940s.