



C.H. Kreienbaum

1895-1982

Descended from families who emigrated from Germany in the mid-19th century, C.H. Kreienbaum was born in Brookville, Indiana, in 1895. As a boy, he moved with his family to coastal Virginia, where his father helped establish a business that brought him recognition for the manufacture of furniture veneers from massive walnut stumps. Young Chris entered the wood industry in Virginia, working in the veneer mills.

In 1912, the Kreienbaum family came west to Tacoma, Washington, where Kreienbaum became, at age 17, a bookkeeper with the Dempsey Lumber Company. During thirteen years with Dempsey, he worked days to advance to sales manager and learn first-hand from Tacoma lumbermen. At nights, he studied correspondence classes in business management.

Kreienbaum joined Simpson Lumber Company (the name was later changed to Simpson Timber Company) in 1925 to manage sales of lumber produced at the company's first sawmill. In subsequent years, he worked to initiate long-range planning which provided

permanence for Simpson and the dependent communities in its forest operating areas. Kreienbaum served as president of Simpson from 1945 to 1949, guiding expansion based at Shelton, Washington. He led the development of California Redwood Region operations in the early 1950's, and established corporate wide research and development, forestry, and public relations programs. His career record also included leadership in community and industry affairs.

Kreienbaum was a strong leader in helping to build the foundation for Simpson's growth and stability. The course charted for Simpson development included investment in North Coast California redwood properties in 1940; the 1941 acquisition of Henry McCleary Timber Company in Shelton and McCleary, Washington; signing the Cooperative Sustained Yield Unit contract in 1946; and the 1947 construction of a plant at Shelton where the "waste" wood fibers left when logs were converted into lumber were reclaimed to manufacture insulating board products.

Kreienbaum was one of the key figures in the formation of the Shelton Cooperative Sustained Yield Unit, the 100-year forest management contract signed by Simpson and the U.S. Forest Service. The Shelton Cooperative Sustained Yield Unit includes 351,000 acres of timberland located on the southern portion of the Olympic Peninsula. This vast timber resource is managed to insure a perpetual forest crop. It is replanted as quickly as it is harvested and it is harvested only at the rate that it grows. Thirty-six years after the agreement was signed, the forestland now holds more timber than it did when the contract began.

In his final decade of Simpson leadership, Kreienbaum continued to develop projects he had been instrumental in launching in such areas as tree farming and increased utilization of the wood resource and product development. He laid the groundwork for construction of, by Crown Zellerbach and Simpson, a pulp mill at Fairhaven, California, to use redwood-milling residues. Kreienbaum also returned to the Redwood Region to expand and bring into timber harvesting and lumber manufacturing operation and acquisitions begun in 1940. Finally, he planned a company wide research center at Redmond, Washington, where scientists continue today to work toward making full and integrated use of the company's forest and human resources and manufacturing facilities.

Also a leader for better manufacturing in the industry, Kreienbaum was president of both the West Coast Lumbermen's Association and the Puget Sound Associated Mills. He was a director and officer of the National Lumber Manufacturers' Association (a forerunner of today's National Forest Products Association), the Puget Sound Scaling Bureau, and the

Pacific Northwest Loggers, Douglas Fir Export, and California Redwood Associations.

C.H. Kreienbaum made his retirement home at Rancho Bernardo near San Diego, California, where he died on April 20, 1982.

Kreienbaum left a living legacy – the Shelton Cooperative Sustained Yield Unit, which has been essential for sustaining the local communities as well as stocking Simpson Timber Company's "wood basket."