



Hillman Lueddeman

1895-1990

Hillman Lueddemann, who became a leading Northwest shipping executive, a visionary lumberman and a tireless civic leader, was born January 23, 1895 in Tuscumbia, Alabama. He was the son of Delia (Hillman) and Frederick Albert Lueddemann.

When Lueddemann was a child, his family moved to San Jose, California. There he attended grade school and high school, where he excelled in track and tennis. Following graduation, Lueddemann attended College of the Pacific at San Jose where he studied journalism and for three years worked as a sports writer for the San Jose Mercury News.

In 1914, at age 19, Lueddemann moved to Portland, Oregon, to work in real estate sales with two uncles at the Lueddemann Co. Three years later he joined the U.S. Army and was awarded four bronze stars for military valor while serving in France during World War I.

On August 2, 1919, Lueddemann married Gertrude Davis. They had two children, Hillman, Jr. of Lake Oswego and Jane Wilson of Portland. After his wife's death in 1949, he married Dorothy E. Patterson on Christmas Day, 1951. Dorothy Lueddemann died in 1978.

Following his military service in World War I, Lueddemann began his distinguished shipping career by taking a job as dock clerk for McCormick Steamship Company on the old Couch Street Dock. He advanced quickly within the company, becoming manager in 1924 and Northwest manager in 1928.

During this same period, a series of business transactions and events eventually placed all of Chas. R. McCormick's interests and holdings, including the steamship service, logging and lumber operations, in the hands of San Francisco-based Pope & Talbot. At the time, Pope & Talbot already had substantial holdings in Northwest lumber production and shipping.

In 1932, Pope & Talbot recognized Lueddemann's keen knowledge of the lumber operations and appointed him manager of all the former McCormick Co.'s logging and lumber interests. In that capacity, Lueddemann demonstrated sound fiscal management that helped preserve the company holdings. In 1935, he became vice-president and Northwest manager of Pope & Talbot's lumber and steamship divisions. A decade later, he was named vice-president and general manager of the company's overall lumber division.

Pope & Talbot thrived during these years. When Lueddemann established the company's Oakridge, Oregon operations, he fostered a new era for post-World War II lumber production. He pioneered the concepts of reforestation and sustained yield harvesting, realized the merits of turning sawdust waste into value-added products, foresaw the advancement of chemical usage in manufacturing, and helped steer Pope & Talbot from the age of sawmills into a period of high-yield lumber and pulp facilities. In addition, he was instrumental in bolstering the company's post-war timber supply through a series of major timber purchases, and he played a key role in developing the Port Gamble/Hood Canal tree farm (one of the largest at the time).

Recognized for his contribution to the industry and to Pope & Talbot, Lueddemann was made a director of the company in 1956. Four years later, after 40 years of service, Hillman Lueddemann retired from Pope & Talbot. Following retirement, he remained associated with the company as a special vice-president and consultant.

Throughout his business career, Lueddemann had broad civic interests. He served two

terms, in 1934 and 1935, as president of the Rose Festival Association. He originated the idea of selling Rose Festival pins, an effort that put the association in the black for the first time in many years.

Lueddemann was also a strong supporter of improving Portland's ports and had a great vision for the city as a shipping center. In 1945, Portland Mayor Riley organized the Port Development Committee of 100 leading citizens and appointed Lueddemann as chairman. In that role, which he held until 1953, Lueddemann launched and completed a 20-point port development program, which included adequate steamship service to all trade regions, a 14,000-ton steel dry-dock, a modern lumber terminal, a campaign to obtain increased tonnage through the port, establishment of steamship service to Alaska, and establishment of uniform terminal rates for all Pacific coastal ports. He brought Portland into the top rank of western seaports and encouraged a realignment of administrative and trade development efforts between the Port of Portland and the Commission of Public Docks.

In 1948, Lueddemann was recognized for these civic efforts and was named First Citizen of the Year by the Portland Realty Board. The Board's First Citizen Committee noted that "Mr. Lueddemann's activities in this field (port development) alone entitle him to First Citizen honor." The Committee also praised his wife, Gertrude, who had "provided quiet and effective public service over a considerable period of years." She held leadership positions in several civic organizations, including the Community Chest (now United Way), Girl Scouts, Volunteers of America, Lewis and Clark College, and civilian defense activities during World War II.

Also in 1948, Lueddemann was president of the Oregon Centennial Commission and of the Portland Chamber of Commerce. Under his leadership, the Portland Chapter was a powerful factor in breaking the Seattle shipping monopoly to Alaska and obtaining two Northwest-to-Hawaii airline routes. He championed the broad development of the Columbia River and was recognized throughout the Columbia Basin as a leader in regional economic advancement.

Other civic activities included positions as a trustee of Lewis and Clark College, a director of the Delta Park Recreation Commission, and at age 35, the youngest elected president of the Rotary Club of Portland.

In addition to his significant civic contributions, Lueddemann was active in many trade associations. For 20 years, Lueddemann served as Oregon vice-president of the Pacific American Steamship Association. He was president of the Portland Steamship Operators Association and chairman of the Port Development Committee. He was also vice-president of the Oregon Inland Waterways Association and a director of the Inland Empire Waterways Association.

In 1951-52, Lueddemann served as president of the West Coast Lumbermen's Association. In 1957-58, he was president of the Lumbermen's Industrial Relations Committee, and he later became a member of the National Lumber Manufacturers Association and the Natural Resources and Foreign Trade Committees of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

His community stature led to membership on the boards of Portland Electric Company, Consolidated Freightways, Oregon Mutual

Savings Bank, and the Oregon Portland Cement Company.

Lueddemann's civic mindedness led to a post-retirement career in state government where he contributed much to help Oregon state government become more efficient. He served on the Interim Committee on Labor Management in 1959 and was a member of the governor's Reorganization Advisory Committee from 1959 to 1970.

Lueddemann served as finance chairman for Oregon Governor Mark Hatfield's successful reelection campaign in 1963. Governor Hatfield's first cabinet appointment under his reorganization plan for state government was to appoint Lueddemann as Oregon's first director for the new State Department of Commerce. At the Department of Commerce, Lueddemann directed the divisions of banking, building codes, consumer services, corporation, fire marshal, insurance, and real estate and housing, plus a number of occupational licensing boards. He continued in this position for 11 years under Governors Hatfield and McCall. After directing one of the more successful reorganizational efforts in Oregon state government, Lueddemann retired from government and civic activities at the age of 80.

Fittingly, and yet little more than half way through his distinguished career, Lueddemann, in 1950, was included in *The Oregonian's 100 Men of the Century*.

A life-long Episcopalian, Lueddemann was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church, Portland. He also was a member of the Rotary Club of Portland, Masons, Multnomah Athletic Club, Waverley Country Club and the Arlington Club.

Guiding principles of his life were a deep religious faith, commitment to his family, a strong work ethic and community service. In his personal life, Lueddemann was known as a man of extreme loyalties, a tireless worker who was the essence of the American dream, and a person whose warm and winning personality endeared him to co-workers and competitors alike. He was particularly adept in handling difficult labor-management relations. The Portland *Oregonian* once referred to him as “a grand guy and a generous friend, sincere and real all the way through.”

On March 24, 1990, at the age of 95, Hillman Lueddemann died in his Portland home. Besides this two children and a sister, Elizabeth Fenton of San Jose, California, Lueddemann was survived by three grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. He is buried in Riverview Cemetery in Portland.