



Henry E. Baldrige

1906 – 1991

Henry E. Baldrige was born along the great Columbia River, the lifeblood of the region in which he would excel as a lumberman and leader of men.

Henry's father, William Ira Baldrige, and his mother, Minnie Amalia Kraus Baldrige, had chosen Rainier, Oregon as their home when Henry was born in 1906. William logged for John Yeon, a principal forestland owner of the area. Of German and Scotch-English heritage, the Baldrige family knew hard work and lived close to the earth that provided a comfortable living. Four brothers and one sister completed the family that worked together in mutual support.

Dependent upon logging activity as their mainstay, the Baldriged relocated to Midway, Washington shortly after Henry's birth in 1906. There his father established a family logging camp and operated a logging concern with about 200 loggers in his employ. The Baldrige family then moved to an 800 acre tract of forest and pasture land in Cowlitz County, Washington on Abernathy Creek where they raised produce, tended a flock of chickens and milked a herd of cows. Perhaps it was the dairy herd that gave Henry his lifelong work ethic for he would long remember, "It fell upon me to milk eight cows twice daily, seven days a week, 365

days a year. It took a lot of food to fuel hungry loggers.”

Life in the woods was not all drudgery for young Henry, however. He learned to hunt and fish at the side of his father and never forgot those days that allowed him to pick wildflowers for his mother.

The family's move to Portland in 1921 introduced Henry to schools and a city that would witness his development as an organizer, leader and community figure. Studies and football at Lincoln High School and then Jefferson High, where he graduated in 1926, prepared him for college. The University of Oregon in Eugene attracted Henry to studies in business administration. There he was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity and was fraternity president in his junior year. He was also a member of the Senior Honorary Friars and a football player during his freshman year. Always a worker, he was employed during college vacations by Shell Oil Company and he successfully maintained a string of part time jobs on the University of Oregon campus. After obtaining his degree from the School of Business Administration, Henry returned to Portland for training at the Northwestern School of Law.

Henry's first full time professional employment was with Lipman Wolfe & Co. in Portland where he was employed as assistant to the credit manager. By 1932 Henry's successful business rise was initiated when he became a representative for McFadden Publications in Portland. In 1936 he joined the Building Owners and Managers Association of Portland as executive secretary.

In 1942, a remarkable forest products career was launched when Henry joined Western Cooperate Company, then owner of Hawley Pulp and Paper Company. First as procurement technician and then as log buyer and logging manager, he supplied the company with its raw material. In 1948, Hawley Pulp

and Paper was acquired by Publisher's Paper Company, a subsidiary of the Times-Mirror Company of Los Angeles. Henry remained with Publisher's Paper Company as timberlands manager until his retirement in 1971.

At Publisher's Paper Company, Henry oversaw the acquisition of highly productive timberlands and forest management policies that assured high production forestry. At the same time reforestation and conservation activities built a solid, renewable forest for the company's future. While with Publisher's Paper Company, Henry E. Baldrige emerged as a respected voice of business and industry. Henry served on the Oregon State Board of Forestry and as chairman of that body was known for his skill and firmness in guiding difficult policy deliberations. In 1982, Tom McCall wrote about Henry's public service. "You were one of the best ever to serve your state," said the former Oregon governor. He was also active in the Associated Oregon Industries as a founder and as the association's third president. Henry was a founder of the Western Forestry Center (now World Forestry Center) and served as president during the Center's difficult formative years. He was also president of the Timber Operators Council.

Henry was similarly active in worthy activities outside the forest products industry. He was a founding trustee of the University of Oregon Foundation. In Portland, he was president of the Portland Rose Festival Association at the time the nationally known Grand Floral Parade was first broadcast in color television. Henry also gave time to the University of Oregon Dad's Club and to the Multnomah Athletic Club where his leadership skills again took him to the presidency. Additionally, he and Wilma enjoyed many hours playing golf at Waverley Country Club.

The accomplishments of this University of Oregon graduate did not go unnoticed by his alma mater. In 1964, at the fiftieth anniversary celebration of the School of Business Administration, Henry was awarded the school's Outstanding Achievement Bronze Medal. The award recognized both professional and community achievements that marked Henry E. Baldrige as a very special Oregonian.

Encouraging and complementing Henry's professional and community involvement was his wife, the former Wilma Katherine Enke. They were married in 1934 and had three daughters, Lucy Lee Hilands (Mrs. James) of California, Judith Louise Mackey (Mrs. James) formerly of California, now residing in Bend, Oregon, and Sheryl Ann Curl (Mrs. James) of Bend, Oregon. They had six grandchildren.

Henry E. Baldrige, always an outdoorsman and always radiating a vigor reflecting abundant exercise, never lost contact with his genesis along the Columbia River. He was a life long conservationist who appreciated the trees that towered in Oregon forests and the wild flowers that grew beneath.