



Edwin C. Dwyer

1903-1969

Edwin C. Dwyer (1903-1969) was a close student of lumber economics and was an active member of numerous civic and corporate boards.

As a skilled flyer of light aircraft, he brought technical knowledge as well as personal interest to the development of air traffic and terminal facilities by the Port of Portland Commission, of which he was a long-timber member. He had a role in the development of the old Portland airport to the Portland International Airport, with an 8800-foot runway and modern terminals.

“Eddie” was born December 9, 1903, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the son of Anthony J. Dwyer, Sr., and Katherine McCarthy Dwyer. After the family moved to Portland in 1906, he attended St. Stephens grade school and Columbia Preparatory School. At Oregon State College (now University), he majored in business administration. He won a welterweight boxing championship at the college and was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

During high school and college vacations, Eddie worked in the Dwyer logging operations in Clackamas County near Estacada, setting chokers and high climbing. When the Dwyer sawmill was built in 1923 in southeast Portland (then known as Southeast Portland Lumber Company), he left the woods to work in the sawmill office. He served variously as salesman, sales manager and vice-president in charge of sawmill operations.

At the time the mill was sold September 1, 1964, to Publishers’ Paper Company, he was executive vice-president and general manager of the entire Dwyer Lumber and Plywood operations. He was also a partner in the Clackamas Logging Company, the Dwyer Forest Products Company and the Dwyer Fuel Company.

Eddie took a lead in the modernization, automation and expansion of the sawmill operations. A plywood mill was added, along with facilities for the precutting of lumber for housing and industrial buildings. In 1955, foreseeing what the industrial development of the United States might do to the environment, he installed a dry precipitator in a new power plant which virtually eliminated fly ash and cinders, and a screen that effectively reduced smoke.

It was Eddie who instigated the sacking and selling of bark dust for garden mulch, converting an economic waste into a business asset and adding to the attractiveness and productiveness of Portland gardens.

He flew company planes for many years in the conduct of his own business and that of the City of Portland. He was appointed to the Port of Portland Commission in 1947. After the enlargement and modernization of the airport, he was made chairman of the Airport Advisory Planning Committee that undertook further expansion of the Portland International.

Edwin C. Dwyer was a member of the Board of Directors of the Pacific Northwest Bell Telephone Company, a director of U.S. National Bank and a former Trustee of the Douglas Fir Plywood Association.

He was a member of the Society of American Foresters, the Portland Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club, the Arlington Club and Waverley Country Club. He was a former member of the Lay Advisory Board of St. Vincent Hospital and attended Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Lake Oswego. He was also a member of the Eldorado Country Club in Palm Desert, California.

Eddie married Margaret Connolly, July 9, 1930, and had four children: Mrs. Charles (Carol) Strader, Mrs. Dale (Frances) Ramsey, Mrs. Bernard (Judy) Albers and Edwin C. Dwyer, Jr., (deceased).

Mr. Dwyer died of a heart attack on May 29, 1969.