



## *Ray Wellington Replogle*

1887-1983

From the flat lands of his birth to the rugged forestlands on which he built a career, Ray Wellington Replogle excelled. He was born on January 3, 1887 in St. Joseph County, Harris Township, Indiana, on the farm of his grandparents, John G. and Catherine Wahl Smith. He was the son of Josiah Wellington and Alice Smith Replogle.

Stories of family accomplishment were a part of young Replogle's formative years. He heard how his grandfather, Josiah D. Replogle had fought honorably in the American Civil War and how his great grandfather, Peter Replogle, had distinguished himself in the Mexican War of 1846-48.

When he was eight years old, Replogle's family established its home in Goshen, Indiana. Ray's father served on the Goshen City Board of Education, reflecting a commitment to formal education from which Ray would benefit. Ray attended grade and high school in Goshen and then entered the University of Michigan, College of Engineering.

In 1907, Ray W. Replogle came west, to an Epworth League Convention in Portland, Oregon.

Now a young man full of adventure and curiosity, he extended his trip on to Seattle, Washington. Captivated by the bustling, port city of Seattle, Replogle quickly chose to remain and make that city his home. The lumber industry was dominant

in the thriving Seattle economy. Opportunity was apparent to Replogle and his developing interest in lumber led him to an interview with C.W. Stimson of Ballard Lumber Company. That interview culminated with Mr. Stimson declaring, "You can report to work in the morning."

With that interview began a remarkable life-long career in the lumber industry and a treasured friendship with C.W. Stimson. Before operations of the Ballard Lumber Company ended in 1912, Mr. Stimson recommended that Ray Replogle move to the position of sales manager for the Taylor Mill Company where Ray worked until that company also closed. From 1916 until 1921, Ray Replogle continued to learn the wholesale and retail lumber business. He managed the Orvis Lumber Company, a retail yard, and then the Seattle Mill and Logging Company as sales manager.

Having established himself in the Seattle lumber business, Ray W. Replogle chose as his wife, Edith Wheeler. They were married on Christmas Eve, 1920. The following year the Replogles completed building their Seattle home at Rainier Beach on Lake Washington. A full-page photo story in a Seattle newspaper of the day featured their new home.

In 1921, the Stimson Timber Company bought the Brace and Hergert sawmill on Lake Union in Seattle. C.W. Stimson contacted Ray Replogle

and asked him to manage the newly formed sales department. So it was that Replogle returned to work for his friend, C.W. Stimson, and to renew an employment relationship that would last for another 60 years.

When Mr. Stimson formed the Stimson Lumber Company, an Oregon corporation, in 1931, he was intent upon moving to Oregon to harvest extensive Douglas fir holdings in Tillamook County. In 1933, Mr. Stimson asked Replogle and Harold A. Miller to move to Oregon to build and operate a sawmill in Scoggin Valley near Forest Grove. That mill continues to operate as a modern, diversified forest products facility, dependent upon sustained yield from Stimson and surrounding forests.

Mr. Replogle came to Forest Grove with Stimson Lumber Company and served actively as sales manager and vice president until 1976, even though he was almost 90 years old. After that he maintained his desk at the office and continued to work a few hours each day until 1982.

In 1932, prior to their move to Oregon, Mr. and Mrs. Replogle embarked on a four-month automobile tour of the United States. Traveling east to New England, south along the eastern seaboard and west through the southern states to Los Angeles, the Replogles traveled more than four thousand miles in their air-cooled Franklin automobile. Meticulous records document a Seattle departure on September 20, 1932, with a return on January 19, 1933. Gasoline costs were as high as 25 ½ cents per gallon in Boise, Idaho, and as low as 16 cents in New York. Good hotel accommodations cost \$3.00

During the 1930's, with his Stimson career secure, Mr. Replogle and two partners bought and operated the Rainier Lumber and Millwork retail lumber yard in Seattle. In 1942, when it became necessary for one of the partners to withdraw, the operation was sold to Copeland Lumber Yards. The retail facility continued to be highly successful, reportedly among Copeland's most profitable. In mid-career, Ray W. Replogle began to occasionally enjoy brief vacations away from his successful lumbering activities. A month-long cruise to Hawaii at Christmas time, 1953 and a three-week Caribbean sailing trip in 1961 were

among the favorite Replogle vacation memories. On a latter trip, the luxury yacht, "Te Vega," owned by Harold A. Miller, took the Replogles from English Harbor, Antigua, to Martinique, Granada, Bequoia, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica and Guadeloupe.

For rest and relaxation, rather than taking regular vacations, Replogle preferred to play golf two or three times a week. He also liked spectator sports and enjoyed baseball and football particularly. The traditional New Year's Day Rose Bowl game regularly drew him to Pasadena, California. With a group of friends, Ray's attendance at the opening of the Portland Beavers baseball game was an annual event.

Ray W. Replogle felt a strong commitment to his community and to his industry. He served as a trustee of Pacific University in Forest Grove from 1962 to 1977, perpetuating his family interest in education. At the time of his death, he remained an honorary trustee of Pacific University. He was a member of the University Club, the Portland Golf Club and the Forest Hills Golf Club. He was also a supporter of the United Methodist Church.

With a very special award presented by those who had long observed his integrity and excellence in lumber sales, the Portland Wholesale Lumber Association named Ray W. Replogle "Lumberman of the Year" in 1980. In 1981, Mr. Replogle received the Diamond Owl Award for 75 years of membership in the Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity, Alpha Phi Chapter.

Since 1935, Mr. and Mrs. Replogle had made Cornelius, Oregon their home. Mrs. Replogle died in 1962, and Ray W. Replogle died at home on February 27, 1983.

His career spanned 75 years of active involvement in the sales of forest products. The quality with which Ray W. Replogle conducted his business and his life serves as a model for those who follow.