

Freres Lumber Company, Inc.

Lyons, Oregon

TPM Member Since
April 2013



Freres Lumber Company, Inc. has been a family owned and operated business since 1922, specializing in the highest quality products across the wood products spectrum from raw log to finished products, including: hog fuel, bark fines, chips, shavings, specialty veneer, grade lumber, high-quality sheathing grade plywood, and even electricity.

Brothers, TG and Wendell Freres owned a lucrative custom thrashing business in 1922. The business gave them the opportunity to get into the sawmill business. A struggling sawmill owner in Fern Ridge, Oregon offered the sawmill in exchange for one of the thrashing machines that the brothers owned. The brothers agreed and took over the sawmill business. It was a hard time and the brothers continued farming and taking on odd jobs in order to support the mill.



The Freres Lumber Company, Inc. on the North Fork of Santiam River, circa 1944.



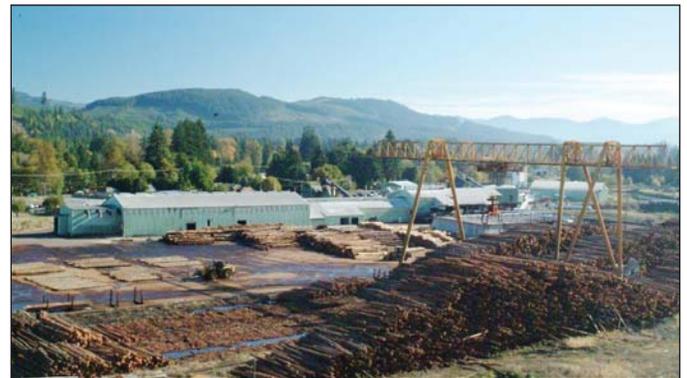
An aerial photo from late 1950's of the Freres plant at Lyons, Oregon, where the mill currently resides.

Eventually, TG bought out his brother and the company continued to grow. As TG's family grew, so did the mill. In 1948, having survived the great depression, the operations of the mill moved to Lyons where it remains today.

TG's oldest sons, Bob, Bud, and Larry began working for the mill at various times. Bob started there in 1948 shortly after high school graduation. In short order, Bob became the plant manager. Bud graduated from Oregon State University and served a tour in the army before working in the logging department. Larry attended Oregon State University, as well, for a time before returning to become the office manager.

TG and Bob continued to run Freres Lumber Company through many hard times. TG's youngest son, Ted Freres, came to work at the company in 1973. Today, a third generation has joined the company. Bob's son, Rob and Ted's twin sons, Kyle and Tyler, have entered the business and continue to show the same determination and leadership that has become associated with Freres Lumber Company.

Freres Lumber Company, Inc. has steadily grown with the purchase of additional facilities. In 1989 the company purchased a neighboring veneer plant and veneer drying facility. The veneer drying facility is currently operated at the Company's facility in Lyons. In 1998 the Company purchased a plywood plant out of bankruptcy in order to vertically integrate operations. In 2007 the Company constructed a cogeneration facility onsite,



A current view of Freres Lumber, log yard, crane and large log veneer plant.

Featured Member *continued from page 8*

supplying steam for veneer drying and block conditioning, and delivering electricity to the surrounding area. Throughout the Company's long life, it has focused on maintaining modern manufacturing facilities, providing high-quality wood products, and providing family wage jobs to the local area.

The Freres companies include: Freres Lumber Company, Inc, Freres Timber, and Evergreen BioPower LLC. Freres Lumber has two manufacturing locations in the Santiam Canyon of Oregon.

Freres Timber owns and operates over 17,000 acres of timberland, primarily located in the Santiam Canyon. Harvesting is performed on a sustained yield basis, and is managed to provide high quality timber for current and future generations.



An employee applies a stencil to the completed init of plywood.



Freres employees patching on the layup line in the plywood plant.

In keeping with its goal of continuous growth, the company promotes the wise and efficient use of timber lands. Federal timber sales are very important, especially for small businesses. Rob Freres, Executive Vice President of Freres Lumber said, "As a government contractor of timber sales, the small business set-aside program is very important to our success. TPM recently took over the small business representation for the program, prompting Freres Lumber to join TPM. We look forward to using TPM's services to aid our safety and human resource administration also."

Evergreen BioPower LLC utilizes steam from Freres Lumber Company, Inc. operations in order to generate electricity which is delivered to the local utility, PacifiCorp, for the benefit of the surrounding area. The facility generates enough power to provide electricity to over 5,000 households. It is operated as a true cogeneration facility: generating power through a condensing turbine while simultaneously providing heat for plant production processes.

The company attributes its success to continuous innovation in the wood products industry, dedication to quality and safety, and a close relationship between management and employees. Providing a safe workplace for approximately 400 employees is the highest priority and stringent safety policies have helped Freres earn the distinction of having one of the lowest incident rates in the industry over the last decade.



Unloading a trailer of hog fuel at the cogeneration plant.

Freres Lumber Company, Inc. can be reached at:
PO Box 276, 141 14th Street, Lyons, Oregon 97358
Phone (503) 859-2121 www.frereslumber.com