Portland - Oregon -

Aug 7th 1922 -

Mr. C. P. Keyser -

Supt of Parks - Portland Ore -

Dear Sir - Dont throw this aside - thinking its just a kick and not worth notice - I am coming to you first as Ive been told that you could use your influence to good advantage in this matter, and as I am not by any means the only one interested, I feel as if it were to your interest also to bring the matter before you - Its in regard to the Forestry Bldg - Do you Know that it is in bad shape? The windows broken out - The railings

ready to fall, and the Balcony shut off - (with all that interesting exhibit from the Public, by unsafe stairs & railings. You know that huge log Cabin can never be replaced - and it will mean more and more to the State and the people who visit the city - every year = Isn't there some way that the State could be induced to make an appropriation to be used to Keep that valuable exhibit in good repair? It is the most interesting Historical exhibit that the State of Oregon has. If you cannot do any thing about this - I wish you would let me Know, and I will try some of the State

Officials - I am very much interested in this matter and will do all I can to help secure that Forestry Building as an exhibit of Early Oregon history.

Very Truly Yours

(Mrs) Laura K. Humphreys

554 E. Madison St

Portland - Oregon.

August 18, 1922.

Mrs. Laura K. Humphreys,
554 E. Madison St.,
City.

Dear Sir:

I thank you for your communication of August 7, carrying a plea for the preservation of the Forestry Building.

I am sorry that steps were not taken early in its history to give it a life of one or two hundred years, rather than building it merely to last during the year of the Fair.

Four years ago, I had the experts of the Government Forest Service, from Madison, Wisconsin, go carefully over the building, and their findings were that it was a physical impossibility to stop the ravages of decay, or to do anything which would preserve the building in its present condition even. It appears that had the timbers been treated at a nominal expense before fungi, insects, and dry rot had made their start, that it would have lasted indefinitely. The design of the building is such that when the horizontal logs shrink like in any ordinary log cabin, there is a settlement of the walls, while the vertical columns do not settle. A dozen years ago, this situation was called to the attention of the late James J. Hill, and he donated some $7,000.00 for underpinning, with the hope of delaying the final collapse of the building. All these years it has been impossible for us to have heat in the building because heat advances the decay at a more rapid rate. This was shown in the Seattle Forestry Building, which was built four years later than ours, and will probably not last as long as our own.

From the best information that I can get on the subject, it appears that the thing to do is to continue the maintenance of the building as best we can, and before all of the large timber disappears, to rebuild it, with a necessary treatment to make it a permanent structure.

I do not believe that anything could be done to fix up the warped and racked stairways and balconies, and if any fund can be created, it should be toward reconstruction.

Thanking you for your interest in a subject which I consider is a unique exhibit of Oregon, I beg to remain,

Yours very truly,

C. P. Keyser,
SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS.

CPK:GBR

March 14, 1924

COPY FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Portland Chamber of Commerce,
Oregon Building,
City

Gentlemen:

In conversation to-day with Superintendent of Parks Keyser, he stated that on account of there being no funds available for the purpose he is unable to make needed reparis to the Forestry Building which is in a deplorable condition and will soon go to pieces unless some very urgent work is done. He states approximately $3,000 is required and, if these repairs are amde, it will last a number of years longer.

This building is, or should be, the pride of Portland and it seems to me your organization should take the matter up with a view to raising the necessary funds even if it must be done by private subscription. The exterior appearance of the building is likewise deplorable since many of the windows are broken.

I have occasion to pass the building twice a day and it is surprising how many tourists visit it to see the wonderful fir logs used in its construction. Probably nowhere else in the world is there such an exhibition of big timber: certainly no other such exhibition of Fir.

I commend this matter to your consideration and trust you will initiate some action which will result in obtaining the necessary funds. I am sure Mr. Keyser will be only too glad to appear before your Board at any time for the purpose of acquainting you with the facts.

Yours very truly,

E. D. Kingsley

PORTLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PORTLAND, OREGON,

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CHAMBER.

March 27, 1924

IN YOUR REPLY PLEASE REFER TO FILE

Mr. C. P. Keyser,
Bureau of Parks,
CITY OF PORTLAND,
City Hall, Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Keyser:

I am attaching, hereto, copy of a letter received from Mr. E. D. Kingsley, President, West Oregon Lumber Company, this city, which is self explanatory.

This matter was referred to the Outdoor Recreation Committee and it was suggested that we ask you to give us a report in writing as to the approximate cost of putting the Forestry Building in good condition, and to submit same to the committee at their meeting April 1st, when the matter will be up for further discussion.

We would appreciate it very much if you could meet with the committee at their noon luncheon meeting at 12:15, main dining room of the Chamber of Commerce, next Tuesday.

Very truly yours,

Arthur A. Goldsmith

Arthur A. Goldsmith, Chairman
OUTDOOR RECREATION COMMITTEE
Portland Chamber of Commerce

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March 28, 1924

Mr. Arthur H. Goldsmith, Chairman,
Outdoor Recreation Committee,
Portland Chamber of Commerce.

Dear Sir:

In the matter of the condition of the Forestry Building which has been called to your attention by Mr. E. D. Kingsley, permit me to outline the history of the building.

As you are doubtless aware it was built to serve as the Oregon Building for the Lewis and Clark Fair in 1904. At the time it was built it was considered only as an exhibit and was not expected to last longer than another Fair building. After the Fair closed, however, it was shown to be such an attraction as a point of interest in Portland that the City purchased two acres of land and made it a part of the Park system. The trouble with the building is that, like all log houses, the walls which are laid horizontally shrink and allow the eaves to settle, while the columns which do not shrink longitudinally hold the rafters between the walls in the original position which is very hard on the roof and also on the interior balconies which are sustained by beams fastened to the horizontal logs of the walls on one end and to the vertical logs on the other.

When the settlement of the walls became serious enough to wrack things out of shape, Mr. James J. Hill donated $6,000.00 to underpin the walls and thus give the building a new lease on life. Some seven or eight years ago some of the experts from the Forest Products Laboratory of the U. S. Forest Service went carefully over the building and reported that twenty years would be about the limit of time that the building might be safely maintained from the date of its construction. They also said at that time that if consideration had been given to preserving the wood when it was built, it might have lasted 100 years instead of 20. Now at the end of the 20 year period we are still able to maintain the exhibit although, of course, there is more and more decay and more and more parts of the balconies have to be shut up. But our advice is now that if we could spend something like $3,000.00 in repairs, principally to the roof, the building would be safe for another five years by spending perhaps $1,000.00 a year for maintenance. I believe the expenditure of that much money, or twice as much, for the next five years would prove a valuable benefit and I am hoping that enough interest will be exhibited by the

August 2, 1926

Mr. H. E. Plummer,
Building Inspector.

Dear Sir:

Last week I asked Mr. I. H. Brown who has had some extensive experience in logging and saw mill operations to give me a report on the salvage value of the Forestry Building. He estimates that there is approximately one million feet of timber in the building and that there is a considerable proportion of it which could be worked up into several grades of lumber, mostly ties and squares and more or less peelers. He thought that we might realize $8,000.00 out of the wrecking. At this time I would like to request that you make another inspection of the building and advise if you consider it safe for exhibition purposes for another year.

Very truly yours,

Superintendent of Parks

HOTEL GEORGIA
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Portland, Ore.,
March 31, 1930.

Mr. C. P. Keyser,
City Hall, Portland, Ore.

Dear Mr. Keyser;

I am enclosing herewith my copy of an article written for the Oregonian. It is a poor copy, for at the time, I had such soft carbon.

Last fall, Russell Owen, the Sunday editor of the Oregonian, intended to run it in October, and then decided to hold it for an issue this spring or early summer. He said it inspired him to an anniversary number of the 25th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark fair. So I do not know just when he will run it. Possibly a few more weeks, as I see he started a serial on some early Oregon history, yesterday.

Thought it might please you to have some of these facts right now. There are so many slips in our lives that there is no need of waiting weeks more for you to have these notes at hand.

Will you please take extreme care against loss of this manuscript, for I have no other, and as my original with some excellent photographs of both the exterior and interior of the building are now filed with Mr. Owen, I will not feel safe until the article is printed and my pictures returned to me.

Should he for any reason, cut the article to an extreme, which is quite unlikely, I will re-write it for some magazine.

HOTEL GEORGIA
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Many weeks were consumed as I went after data for this article. Much research work as well as running around. I would not again do it.

Had my health been better of late, I would have copied this so that you could have clearer type in reading.

After you have read it, if you care to do so, will you please call me at my home, and either Mr. McClure or myself will call in and pick it up, as I do not care to trust the mails with my only copy.

Hope that I am not presuming when I take it for granted that the facts herein gathered are things you want to know, and I hope that there are some new things about it for you.

Yours very truly,

Elizabeth W. McClure.

263 Montgomery St.,
The Counselor Apartment,
3d and Montgomery St.,
Portland, Ore.

At. 5776.

April 2, 1930

Mrs. Elizabeth M. McClure,
263 Montgomery Street,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Mrs. McClure:

I thank you for your interesting account of the Forestry Building. Incidentally I have taken the liberty of having two copies made of it in case anything happened to your manuscript and it should not be available, I would be able to dig up the information later.

In one place it reads as though Oscar Huber were the architect. My understanding is that Whidden and Lewis were the architects on the building and it was really planned by A. E. Doyle. I am informed also that Lincoln Beachley was the featured aeronaut at the Lewis and Clark Fair.

I had a nice little visit with Mr. McClure along the lines Mrs. Batson spoke of. Am sorry that there is no immediate prospect of our making better use of his time and talents in connection with the Parthenon.

Again thanking you, I am,

Very truly yours,

Superintendent of Parks

Oregonian June 1 1930
News Telegram had an article on Apr 10-39

Page 24 (See bottom of P. 24)

Supplement.

Mr. Lewis, of the firm of Whidden and Lewis, drew the plans for the log lodge known as Cloud Cap Inn, which was built on Mt. Hood, 41 years ago. ~~In 1903, he furnished the plans~~

In 1903, he furnished the plans for the Forestry exhibition building in St. Louis,

In 1904, Mr. Lewis completed the plans for the most beautiful log building of them all, — our Forestry building.

Elizabeth M. McClure
263 Montgomery Street
Portland, Oregon

c1930

Portland's Parthenon

As we read, "Even in ruins, the great temple of Athena Parthenos, crowning the Acropolis, is the chief glory of Greece", so may we with pride consider the Forestry building, of Portland, Oregon, which so splendidly represents the glorious freedom and beauty and prosperity of the Northwest timberlands.

A Columbia University instructor, entering this building for the first time, hesitated and with feeling said,

"This is no log cabin -- This is a temple".

She reminded me that in considering Greek structures it should not be forgotten that the inlook was as beautiful as the outlook.

"On entering the building the first idea suggested to the artistic visitor, by the pillars and aisles, is that of an Egyptian temple, and this idea is still further borne out by the many eminent singers and musicians who have visited it and found its acoustic qualities equal to those of a temple or cathedral; while the impression produced on the tourist on entering is that he is in a veritable forest of giant firs. The building is maintained for the distinct purpose of exhibiting the lumber and forest resources of Oregon and specimens of most of the 94 species of trees growing in the state can be found here."

Twenty-four years ago, before our youngest voters were born, the Forestry building was completed as an exhibit for the Lewis and Clark Fair. October 19, 1905, it was turned over to the city as a permanent exhibition.

News items of 1905, the year of this building's completion, seem of the long ago, even to the older folks. Among the reportorial columns of that year, we find mentioned,-

"A letter presenting a souvenir coin of the Fair to Alice Roosevelt."

"Aeronauts will compete at the Fair."

"Airship of Roy Knabenshue at Fair."

"Joaquin Miller at the Fair."

"Patriotic talks on German Day."

"Elbert Hubbard to speak at Fair."

"Mrs. Abigail Scott Duniway's Day."

"Captain Peary wants to make one more effort to reach the North Pole."

May 9, 1905 saw the start of the first transcontinental auto race, from New York to Portland. It was between two roadsters, and was won by Dwight B. Huss, in 44 days and 6 hours."

While this year of 1905 seems long ago, it would mean but 24 small yearly rings on one of our Oregon firs. Hardly a showing on any of the huge pillars which are the decided beauty of this edifice.

The construction contract was let to the lowest bidder, Mr. Burrell, in June, 1904, for $30,165.00, material being furnished by the Exposition. The labor contract on log placement amounted to $14,000.00. The St. Louis Forestry was to be repeated at Portland.

The foreman, Mr. Ike Heisey, used a derrick to lift the logs. To raise the logs into upright positon, he bored a hole near the top of each large log and inserted a 2¼ inch steel shaft and hooked a chain over the end. In this manner, with 112 horse power, the logs could safely and accurately be lifted up and placed.

Most of the large logs were logged and shipped from a forest about six miles back from Oak Point, Washington, on the lower Columbia River.

Today, logs are more often shipped 60 miles than 6 miles, but in the day of the small 37 ton shay engines, 6 miles was a long haul, as no logging then was done far back in the rougher country. The cream of the timber at that time was being skimmed. Stumps three and four board holes high attest the affluency of the virgin forest as well as the primitive means of the sawyers.

The effort expended and the pride with which the loggers worked in supplying these logs, (most of them from Simon Benson's holdings,) can hardly be realized by the person unfamiliar with logging. For the beauty and uniqueness or individuality of this building demanded that the logs be fully clothed in bark.

Most of the logs from which the bark was peeled, even in a small degree, had to be cast aside for lumber.

An inspector went through the woods and selected the trees of his choice. The timber fellers, buckers, rigging men, loaders and boom men all had a responsibility entrusted to them. Pride in their labor as well as the future exhibit made this a work of love.

The logs were loaded single deck; the large ones, one to a set of trucks. Small donkey engines, now used as loaders, yarded these logs. Using one and one-eight inch main line, with one and two block purchase, these small donkey engines dragged the logs about 1000 feet to the rollways, where the loaders loaded them with jack-screws.

The loggers used grabs instead of chokers to hook onto the butt end of the logs. The hewn grab holes may be seen near the bottom of the large fir pillars.

The boom men separated the logs, making up two rafts for the Forestry building, and held them at Clatskanie, Ore., a good booming ground, across the river, until the builders were ready for them in Portland.

When the river was at the right height, the rafts were towed to the entrance of Guild's Lake and broken and towed through the lake to the shute up which they were drawn. The tramway or shute especially constructed to protect the bark in transit was 1550 feet long.

The Heisey crew worked day and night for four days. The 2d of July, 1904, they started towing them into the lake, and as the Willamette River was falling, it was imperative that the work be finished while the water flooded the Guild's lake outlet. On the eve of July 6, 1904, they finished. Mr. Burrell had sent their meals to them during this time, but the last evening the bed in the old Esmond hotel, looked better than supper.

It took from April to June of 1904 for the loggers to get out the perfect logs spotted as stumpage among the rest of the logging settings. As a result, the sap had come up and made some of the bark slick, which scaled in the final work. They had hoped to fell the entire lot while the sap was at rest and the bark in the best of condition to insure its adhesion to the trunk.

The smaller logs in lengths of four to twelve feet were brought from Clackamas County, east of Portland, and those of twelve to thirty feet length were brought from Rainier, Ore.

The total area of the Forestry building is 21,945 square feet. The logs are all of Douglas fir, except two hemlock and four of the outside pillars which are of Pacific red cedar, cut in Columbia County, Ore.

To cover the roof, it required 30,000 fir shakes, four feet long, and for the siding trimmings, 43,000 fir bark shingles. These fir shakes were later replaced with 1,400,000 red cedar shingles, as the latter are less liable to cupping and furnish a closer fitting roof. Again in 1928, the building had another roof, the third, and shingles of the latest cut now adorn the top of this bark-robed building.

If the logs in this building were placed on end, they would cover a distance of two miles and each one is from five to six feet in diameter. Eight miles of fir poles were also used. The balcony is ten feet wide.

Along the east wall of the building, lies the long flag pole, broken, bent, in the last throes of decay, casting off the bark garment, piece-meal. The metal plate nailed on the butt of the pole, blackened by some preservative, tries to tell us that, "This fir flag pole is 184½ feet long. It is the property of the State of Oregon. The wood is Douglas fir. The sails of commerce of every civilized nation are flung to the breezes from masts and spars of this, the great timber tree of the Pacific Coast."

There is a total of 1,000,000 feet of lumber in the entire building. Each of the large upright pillars are 54 feet long, measuring six feet in diameter at the base and five feet at the top, and containing 8,000 feet of lumber; enough for a five room bungalow. The 52 pillars represent 52 bungalows. The rear pillars are the longest in the building on account of the lay of the ground. All of the pieces are hewn for the fittings, except in a few places where the windows were fitted. These places were sawed and the window frames fitted into the centers of the logs, making very deep casings.

The Forestry building is 206 feet long, 102 feet wide and 72 feet high. The rafters or cross beams are the size of ordinary park trees. The floor contains 22,000 feet of vertical grain fir flooring in which a single defect such as a knot or pitch seam cannot be found. The heaviest log, weighing 35 tons, was lifted into place at the rate of 30 feet per minute. The whole building at the time of construction weighed 32,640 tons. Walls and pillars rest on a firm concrete foundation. The building was finished March 8, 1905.

There were no serious accidents during the handling of these immense logs, and the expertness of the engineer saved one laborer's hand, which was snuggly held between two logs, when he so steadily held the lever until the proper balancing could be brought into play as he raised the log slightly and released the man's hand.

Permanent decorations of pine cones, hanging in garlands, festoon the balcony edge.

Upon entering the building, one steps between two immense upright logs, and stops to gaze down 206 foot avenue, lined on each side with fourteen of the large log pillars. Visitors have made curious remarks, such as,

"Are they real logs?"

One Boston lumberman, with his wife and daughter visiting the building when unfinished, asked, "Are they pieces of logs glued together?"

Another woman tourist said, "Isn't it wonderful the way they grew; all in a line like that?"

George Himes, curator of the Oregon Historical Society, tells of taking a visitor to the balcony of this building during the Fair. She remarked, "I have visited many, many cathedrals abroad, but never have I been more impressed with beauty, symmetry and acoustics."

The large slabs on exhibition in the building were cut from trees in Clatsop Co., Ore., near Olney. Four men, two on each side of the log, bored 48 augur holes into each side of the log, straight towards the center. Twenty-four holes in a row, with about 9 inches space between the rows. So accurately was this done, by measurement, that when they wedged the log apart, following the line of the holes, they had left a large slab, 20 feet long, 8 feet, 7½ inches wide, and 8 inches thick. This was then adzed down to 6 inches thick, and finished at one spot on one side, to show the beauty of the grain.

Another exhibit is the minature Columbia River basin, showing tiny hatcheries, fish-wheels, seining grounds, traps, canneries and things pertaining to the fishing industry.

An Oregon grape plant, 15 feet high and ¾ inch in diameter at the base, rests against a big pillar.

Poison Ivy, peeled and varnished, having reached the height of 15 feet, lattices one rear door sill.

A worm more than a foot long, is secure in alcohol, beside a piece of worm-eaten timber, showing the devastation it could have wrought before its immersion.

Two blocks, cut from a Clatsop County Oregon fir stump, measure 9 feet, 4 inches in diameter, and rings off the age of 575 years.

One of the most impressionable displays is a tide-land spruce, 173 years old, which had sprouted and thrust its roots into the decaying bark of a fallen Port Orford cedar, almost a century before Lewis and Clark reached Oregon. It enveloped the still sound log and rooted in the soil. The cedar log has 304 annual rings and had fallen when only Indians populated America. It was a tree 2 feet in diameter when Columbus discovered America.

One of the most beautiful exhibits showing the fine grain of the different wood is that of the maple burls. Polished surfaces bring out the exquisite curls. One in the rough measures about 4 x 5 feet and would be worth a thousand dollars or more, for veneering.

Above the balcony, near the roof, one finds a little landing or platform or crow's nest, which firemen used as a look-out during the Lewis and Clark Fair, when this building housed wonderful and priceless exhibits, but none so priceless as itself. It is worthy of constant protection.

On May 19, 1905, Director of Exhibits, Dosch, when hearing the pipe organ in the gallery, found the acoustics perfect and the idea occurred to him to call this building the "Oregon Cathedral." He said that "something of the majesty of the Oregon forests will be conveyed when the organ moans 'the somberness of the Oregon fir forest, with its immense trunks and high waving branches, while about the base of the trees there is a stillness of night at noon.'"

At present, with the building echoing only with the foot-steps or quiet voices of visitors, for none are boisterous here, it reminds one of Joaquin Miller's words on Crater Lake, written in "Steel Points," Oct., 1906. He said, "The one thing that first strikes you, after the color, ... is the silence, the Sunday morning silence, that broods at all times over all things. ..... It is an intense silence, as if you were lost, but a sweet, sympathetic silence that makes itself respected, and all the people are as if at church."

Several times a fight has been waged against the worms eating into the log structure. You will note holes bored into the trunks, where medicine of various kinds has been poured.

Old newspaper records describe the appearance and work of the Priomus family, which bores holes an inch in diameter, within which the eggs are laid, which hatch out the next summer and feast on the dried sap of the Douglas fir. Each Priomus lives two seasons, which makes its work doubly destructive.

Then come the little flat-head borers, beautiful green beetles, striped with gold, who delight in making little elliptical holes in Douglas fir posts, altho they are sluggish in their movements.

Termopsis causes more trouble. They are much like white ants. White when they first hatch, but become pale brown in the adult stage, and during their nuptial flight have thin gauzy wings which they later lose. They lay their eggs in the sapwood of the Douglas fir pillars, where the larvae will have plenty of sap on which to gorge the following spring. The larvae hatch out in great numbers and their presence is at once detected by the sawdust which appears on the floor as a result of their borings.

Mr. Gorman, former care-taker of the building, dispatched these pests with a mixture of carbolineum and creosote, seasoned with bi-chloride of mercury, which he poured into a little hole above their own doorways. The liquid seeps through the roof and the bugs perish in their own gluttony.

In May, 1914, an old sailor told Mayor Albee to pour linseed oil in holes in the logs to preserve them as masts on ships are permeated with linseed oil by pouring it in holes at the top of the masts.

Just last year an article appeared on "Hypodermics for Logs." The practice of giving logs a hypodermic injection to preserve them invented in Germany not long ago, has spread to England, and a new tool has been invented to do the work, we are told in Popular Science Monthly (New York) We read:

"The new scientific method is being used to inject into telegraph poles a spreading paste that is said to keep fungi at bay. Many years are said to be added to the pole's life. This treatment of wood is a step that may lead eventually to complete arrest of decay. If that ideal is accomplished, buildings of wood can be erected that will be as imperishable as structures of stone, brick, or steel, while the cost will be much less. The effect will be that of transmuting wood into rock."

Among the ones who have appreciated the Forestry building, is James J. Hill, who fifteen years ago gave $15,000.00 with which to build a concrete foundation under a part of the building which was sagging.

In 1914, the City Council directed the Department of Public Works to make a thorough investigation into the proposed improvement of Upshur Street to ascertain if the improvement would interfere with the Forestry building. If it would have, the street lines and grades were to be changed so as to protect the building.

The Portland Telegram carried an editorial conductive to this thought, "For the preservation of the Forestry building, the Oriental building on the Lewis & Clark Fair grounds site is being wrecked. It is the sensible thing to do. We should be at every pains to protect the Forestry building from destruction. As the years pass, we will be exceedingly proud of this structure for the reason that it will be typical of the earlier Oregon, and a monument preserving the memory of one of the important events in the history of the state. The value of this edifice cannot be expressed in set terms. It partakes of history and sentiment and is above any computation in terms of money.

At the close of the Fair, Coney Island wanted the Forestry building. George C. Lynch said the syndicate he represented was willing to spend $200,000.00 in purchasing and moving the building to New York, -- that it would be worth $1,000,000.00 to him and his associates. They would load it on a ship and move it via Cape Horn.

Mr. Lynch wanted the original and not an imitation as Col. Dosch suggested, as fame of the building had spread from one end of the country to the other. It having been at the L. & C. Exposition would add to its value as an amusement feature.

In these few years many changes have come among the buildings and surroundings. To the north, one looks across the filled-in Guild's Lake acreage to the Gas plant. Instead of the water, reflecting the trees, shrubs, sky and the Fair's government buildings on the island, we see an air-plane and training field, oceanic terminals,

industrial sites with railroad tracks penciling the sand. In the distance, plane after plane circles and alights on our costly and most beautiful air-port of Swan Island.

Lindbergh has grown to manhood, made the record and soared above our old building, whose logs would disdain the youth of this new enterprise.

Wardway sports past the door, calling attention to the newer buildings bordering it, as it winds down to the thread of Linnton road.

Pigeons coo and bill and strut as they did during the gala days of the Fair, but now have to seek food as they house themselves in the quiet eaves, across the way from a staked cow, chewing her cud.

On the hills to the northwest one looks upon a sea of young trees. Mr. Haack, a veteran of the City of Portland service, who is the present care-taker of the Forestry building, sat upon this north veranda and told me of a time, thirty years ago, when that hill was covered with split cord-wood. A brush fire came and burned 800 cords of the wood, owned by one Bill Cramer.

From the 100 foot veranda on the east, one has a view of Mt. Hood, which is the only near thing our logs can reverence as to age.

From the west 100 foot veranda, we look upon the beautiful and expensive homes of Westover terraces -- terraces made possible by the slucing of the rugged hills, as the silt was carried to fill in Guild's lake.

Mr. Haack quotes remarks made by visitors. He says that all tourists and visitors declare the building to be wonderful. Some say amazing things.

The Forestry building can be and is considered far and away the best advertisement of Oregon's timber resources.

Praise and gratitude is due Oscar Huber, the architect, and Thorburn Ross, an attorney, who conceived many of the original ideas embodied in the log building.

"Thirty years ago, the state of Tennessee held a centennial exposition at Nashville, the capital.

At that time, the major attraction was a plaster and staff copy of the Athenian Parthenon. Thousands came to see and admire. When the flimsily constructed edifice began to fall into decay, after a lapse of two decades, the board of Park Commissioners of Nashville decided to replace it by a permanent structure made of imitation marble, a composition of cement, sand and varicolored pebbles

was used. ..... The Parthenon at Nashville now stands completed like the one in the Grecian capital of twenty-four centuries ago, on a slight elevation." (Mentor - May, '27.)

Since Nashville saw fit to give permanency to an alien attraction, Portland should not hesitate to preserve at any cost, a building which cannot easily be duplicated or imitated.

Until air conveyances of some kind can deliver such logs, it will be almost impossible to repeat this work of art, due to distance of transportation by rail.

May many visitors to our Forestry building, feel the reverence of Alexander Wilbourne Weddle, who wrote in the National Geographic Magazine of December, 1922,

"I visited the Parthenon in all its overwhelming grandeur and severe beauty."

"There are things in this world which we so love or so admire that we are loath to praise them, lest by clumsy or ill-chosen eulogy we should harm or diminish what we are fain to honor."

"I felt this before the Parthenon."

THE TEMPLE OF FORESTRY

Portland, Oregon, is a town of the woods. Since 1823 when David Douglas came up the river as far as a sailing vessel could bring him, and thereupon made his preliminary exploration of the Douglas fir region afoot, a city at the head of navigation was predestined to become the timber capital of the world. It is therefore fitting that a distinctive temple of forestry should symbolize the native setting in the grandest forest that man has known.

In all periods of history peoples have builded monumental edifices, according with the spirit of their aspirations, and reflecting their bents for architectural expression. In a region of grand rivers, majestic mountains, and magnificent forests, contrived artificial temples would seem superfluous. They add little or nothing to the picture, are more likely to detract. Therefore it is not passing strange that in the vicinity of the City called Portland, there has been erected no cathedral, no shrine, no grand object of conventional art to signalize the civilization or the worship of the living; neither have the denizens of the region where rolls the Oregon, gone in for a great war memorial or a gathering place for the multitude, to compare with adjuncts of urban living made common in other localities.

In 1905, Portland staged a World's Fair to celebrate the passing of a century since Lewis and Clarke proved up on the annexation of the only portion of the U.S.A. that has never been suzerain to a flag other than the stars and stripes, and by the same token, while it was not realized at its inception the Lewis and Clarke Fair marked the end of an era in Portland's metropolitan history. Wooden sidewalks and planked streets did not long survive the Fair. Fish wheels and salmon canneries on the Columbia River had seen their day, and expanses of loggedoff land were beginning to accent the new cry of conservation resounding nation wide. National forest reserves had their beginnings. Concrete

and steel had not replaced bricks and timbers in downtown buildings. Still and all Portland continued to be and for that matter still is the lumber capital of the world.

The Oregon State Building of the Lewis and Clarke Exposition was built in the form of a giant house of logs and was named the Forestry Building.

Designed only to serve during the fair, it caused so much public interest and admiration that the City acquired it and made it a part of its park system, and although all other traces of the layout of the exposition have long since disappeared, the Forestry Building still stands and serves to impress, visitors. Left in comparative silence, the noises and babble of the fair removed, it is more awe-inspiring as it slowly settles to decay, than when it was new, if anything may seem new when made up of trees that were centuries old, before they were felled and their trunks rafted up the river and ranged into a pretentious shelter for the works of the whiteman. No man-made thing or work in and about Portland is as telling to visitors as is our Forestry Building.

The original construction cost was only some $30,000. The timber was donated. To duplicate it today would cost several times that much. What is more, it cannot be duplicated in any other region. The structure is 206 feet long, 102 feet wide, and the ridge of the roof is 72 feet above the floor. The rafters are the trunks of large trees. The floor contains 22,000 board feet of perfect vertical grain fir flooring, i.e. without knot pitch pocket or wind shake flaw, a veritable lumber grader's dream of quality.

There is a total of a million board feet of timber in the entire building. Each of the columns composed of tree trunks 6 feet in diameter and standing 54 feet high will make 8,000 board feet, of high grade lumber and many laths. There are 64 of these monarchs of the forest

standing up and serving as columns or pillars. The walls composed of the same sort of timber, are laid up horizontally in regular log cabin fashion, hewed for bearing and notched at corners. The logs are nearly all of Douglas fir. Two of hemlock, and four of western red cedar among the outside pillar trees are notable exceptions. All of the timber was laid with bark intact, and it has been maintained in its natural state.

A feature of the architecture is the exterior covering of the gables, with a facing of bark taken from smaller trees, and used to serve in the manner of rustic siding. Oddly enough the bark siding has remained in near perfect preservation without any attention, while a constant warfare on insects, borers, fungus and dry rot, has been waged in order to preserve the wood within the bark throughout the building. No heat or light is permitted in the building, because heat aids the propogation and growth of all forms of biological parasites, and light attracts undesirable insects. No preservative treatment was applied when the building was constructed back in 1904, as it was intended to stand only for the duration of the Fair. More recent research in wood preservation has disclosed the possibility of an inexpensive treatment that would have added centuries to the life of the building, whereas, as it stands, the very magnitude of the timbers, and the constant losing fight of the caretaker on the agents of deterioration are all that have prevented complete ruin long ago.

Repairing log cabins is a process that just isn't done. And when it comes to restoring them they are rebuilt altogether. This should be done before long in the case of the Forestry Building, for two reasons. First, it is eminently worthwhile for the timber capital city to have its capitol building. Second, it won't be many years hence when the fungi and the bugs and other agencies of destruction have won their fight and our unique temple will be only a memory. Further, un-

less action to rebuild is started soon there will be no trees of the calibre available, with which the building might be duplicated.

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Make a pilgrimage to this temple, and admire it while you are yet privileged.

Forestry Bldg

Report of visitors in Forestry Building 1938

January	1531
February	1525
March	1790
April	2244
May	3171
June	4178
July	5883
August	5524
September	3800
October	1924
November	1398
December	1443

Forestry Bldg

April 5, 1940.

Mrs. Myrtle Nunn,
318 N. 12th Street,
Phoenix, Arizona.

Dear Mrs. Nunn:

I have just received your letter of March 22nd requesting information on the Forestry Building. I am enclosing a copy of an article which I believe will give you most of the principal information you have requested.

There was also published some ten years ago, a Sunday feature article in the Portland Oregonian which gave more details of how the logs were brought in and the building erected. While you might be interested in more detail I doubt if it is worth your while to run it down. So far as I know the building is the largest "log cabin" in the world, although I do not see that that feature adds anything to its fame or quality.

Yours very truly,

Superintendent of Parks.

K/d

THE FORESTRY BUILDING

In the spring of 1806 the expedition of Lewis and Clark passed the mouth of the Willamette river on its return trip after wintering on the lower Columbia at the present site of Astoria. Learning from Indians of the presence of the river, the mouth of which was hidden from sight by islands, Captain Clark set out to explore it. He ascended it for several miles, and that night wrote in his journal: "This valley is bounded westward by the mountainous country bordering the coast, from which it extends eastward thirty miles in a direct line till it is closed by the range of mountains crossing the Columbia above the great falls. Its length from north to south we are unable to determine, but we believe that the valley must extend to a great distance: it is in fact the only desirable situation for a settlement on the western side of the Rocky mountains, and being naturally fertile, would, if properly cultivated, afford subsistence for forty or fifty thousand souls."

In 1905 the Lewis and Clark Fair was held, to show the progress made in the Oregon country during the intervening one hundred years. It was decided that a great log cabin, the largest in the world, might well depict the products of the forests, as well as honor the achievements of Oregon's pioneer settlers. The Forestry Building, designed by Architect A. E. Doyle, was built by the state at a cost of over $30,000, entirely of the products of Northwest forests. Two miles of fir logs five and six feet in diameter, eight miles of poles, 43,000 fir shakes, and 30,000 fir bark shingles, went into its construction.

Soon after the exposition the state presented it to the City of Portland, which has maintained it since.

Forestry Bldg

September 10, 1940.

Mr. H. B. Van Duzer, Pres.,
Inman-Poulsen Lumber Company,
Ft. of S. E. Caruthers,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Van Duzer:

As you know, I have been "crying in the wilderness" for a new Forestry Building, with brighter hopes lately of relocating it on Council Crest.

A couple of years ago a contractor who was delivering peelers from near Eugene to Grays Harbor told me that it would cost about $500 apiece to deliver sixty-five six foot tree trunks to Council Crest, but that it would not be long, at the rate they are going, until they could not be had for love or money.

At the same time I had some confabs with different U. S. Forest officials in the line of inquiry on methods of preservation. While the findings were not conclusive, I was left with the impression that it would be a relatively easy matter to girdle the selected trees and apply blue stone in solution to be taken up in the sap circulation, causing the tree to die on the stump but preserving it against ravages of insects and fungi, as well as holding the bark if timed right.

Tomorrow the Chamber of Commerce is paying an official call to the Pacific Plywood mill at Willamina. Hurrah for the enterprise! But how's about setting about saving a hundred trees for a show on Council Crest?

I don't know the people or the game but it would seem that the Douglas Fir Association or the timber industry in general should find it worthwhile to set up another exhibit as significant as our old Forestry Building. And surely there must be broader interests to enlist. How can this town do without something of the kind?

This is by way of announcing that I have notions of descending on you for some competent advice on how to get the timber.

Yours very truly,

CITY OF PORTLAND

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

(NOT FOR MAILING)

From Dept. of Bureau of Buildings December 26,1941

To Dept. of Finance

Addressed to Bureau of Parks (Attention Mr. C. F. Wiegand)

Subject Condition of columns in Forestry Building

Dear Sir:

In response to your verbal request, an investigation was made of the condition of the Forestry Building, particularly with reference to two wooden columns which have settled.

A report of this investigation, made by Inspector E. A. Dunlap, is herewith attached. According to this report it is quite evident that something should be done to improve conditions, although it does not appear that any special hazard exists.

Yours very truly,

H. E. Plummer

Inspector of Buildings

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b

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CITY OF PORTLAND

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

(NOT FOR MAILING)

From Dept. of Building Division December 26,1941

To Dept. of

Addressed to H. E. Plummer, Inspector of Buildings

Subject Condition of columns in Forestry Building.

Dear Sir:

The Park Department having reported that two columns in the Forestry Building were settling badly, an inspection was made.

The columns referred to are two outside columns which support portions of the outside balconies and portions of the roof. One column stands on the westerly side at the southerly end of the balcony and only a few feet from the bottom of a valley rafter at the intersection of the roof.

There are "webfoot" gutters on the roof which carry the water to an opening in the gutter at the valley rafter. A downspout was supposed to be installed here, but this has never been done and the water runs down onto the lawn near the bottom of the column above referred to. A drain pipe has been installed against the bottom of the column. A ditch was dug for the installation of the drain pipe and after the pipe was installed, the ditch was refilled with dirt. Whether the drain pipe extends to a dry-well or sewer could not be determined.

The water from the roof has formed a mud puddle a few feet from the bottom of the column and the dirt in the ditch being soft has permitted the water to soak down around the footing under the column, and to cause settlement of the column.

This column has settled six inches and leaves the roof unsupported at this point. However, there is no sagging in the roof, as the stringers above the columns are ample to support the load.

There is some dry rot on the outside of the column, but it appeared to the inspector that there is sufficient solid wood in the center to carry all loads imposed. The amount of solid wood in the

column could not be determined without equipment which the inspector did not have at hand.

The other column referred to by the Park Department is on the easterly side of the building at the northerly end of the balcony and the same condition exists there, except that the water from the roof has a better chance to flow away and does not soak into the ground so much. The settlement of this column is only about three inches.

Downspouts and drain pipes which operate in a proper manner should be installed and a complete check should be made to determine the stability of the columns.

Respectfully submitted,

T. W. Arnold

Chief Inspector, Building Division

EAD
bm

CITY OF PORTLAND

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

(NOT FOR MAILING)

January 2, 1942. Forestry Bldg

From Dept. of

To Dept. of Parks

Addressed to Mr. C. P. Keyser, Supt.

Subject

Dear Sir:

Submitted herewith is communication from the Inspector of Buildings, dated December 26th, relative to condition in Forestry Building, in which he suggests taking care of the roof drainage as a partial prevention of the settling.

I have an estimate of the cost of replacing the down spouts and repairing the gutters for $153.00. I would respectfully recommend that this be done.

Yours very truly,

Wiegand

Asst. Superintendent of Parks.

W:d

January 4, 1943

Parks

Building Division

Mr. H. E. Plummer

Forestry Building

Dear Sir:

Following our telephone conversation of last week, will you kindly make an inspection and report on the condition of the Forestry Building, with special reference to the outside columns and what serves for a frieze.

If you need any assistance in the matter of access or ladders to climb with let me know when you expect to visit and I will ask our foreman to give you all possible aid.

Yours very truly,

Superintendent of Parks

K:d

Forestry Bldg

Bureau of Parks

Finance

Honorable Kenneth L. Cooper,

Council Cal.#2193, proposal of C. M. Peterson to wreck the Forestry Building.

August 7, 1943

Dear Sir:

Returned herewith is Calendar No. 2193, proposal of C. M. Peterson to wreck the Forestry Building.

I would respectfully recommend that the communication be placed on file. The Forestry Building has not yet outlived its usefulness, and until it shall have been replaced or condemned, it should be maintained for the use and benefit of the public, as a notorious timber exhibit of this region.

Very truly yours,

Superintendent of Parks

Forestry Bldg

August 25, 1943.

Honorable Kenneth L. Cooper,
Commissioner of Finance,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Sir:

Returned herewith is communication from Edward P. Schwartz, Editor, Daily Journal of Commerce.

In line with your suggestion, I am attaching a short story on the Forestry Building which I wrote some three years ago. Mr. Schwartz is one of several who have spoken up following the proposal of C. M. Peterson to wreck the Forestry Building for what it may yield in the present wood and fuel shortage.

As I have heretofore reported, I believe the time has not yet come to do away with the Forestry Building although I think we should plan to replace it at the earliest opportune time. I think perhaps Mr. Schwartz can abstract what information he desires from the "short story" that I wrote in 1940, if not I would refer him to an article by Mrs. Elizabeth M. McClure which appeared as a feature in the Sunday Oregonian of June 1, 1930, which goes more exhaustively into the sources of timber and methods of construction.

Yours very truly,

Superintendent of Parks.

K:d
Enc. 3

Forestry Bldg

October 21, 1943

Mr. H. S. Sackett,
1302 Hobart Bldg.,
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Mr. Sackett:

Your kind favor of September 10th reached my desk when I was on an enforced vacation. Now I find that you are out of the city.

I have been inquiring for years, usually buttonholing any forest products laboratory man who came to town, also have pestered the Weyerhauser people. How I never discovered you remains to be explained, which is to say I would be glad to accept your invitation to talk the matter over.

So far I have nothing but dreams of a Forestry Building to replace the old one, but if my dreams are to be realized I have got to find a way to impregnate big timber. When you are in Portland again give me a buzz and we will develop the subject.

Yours very truly,

Superintendent of Parks.

K:d

THE TEMPLE OF FORESTRY

by

C. P. KEYSER

1943

Portland, Oregon is a town of the woods. Since 1823, when David Douglas came up the river as far as a sailing vessel could bring him and thereupon made his preliminary exploration of the Douglas fir region afoot, a city at the head of navigation was predestined to become the timber capital of the world. It is, therefore, fitting that a distinctive temple of forestry should symbolize the native setting in the grandest forest that man has known.

In all periods of history peoples have builded monumental edifices, according with the spirit of their aspirations, and reflecting their bents for architectural expression. In a region of grand rivers, majestic mountains and magnificent forests, contrived artificial temples would seem superfluous. They add little or nothing to the picture, are more likely to detract. Therefore, it is not passing strange that in the vicinity of the City called Portland there has been erected no cathedral, no shrine, no grand object of conventional art, to signalize the civilization or the worship of the living; neither have the denizens of the region "Where rolls the Oregon" gone in for a great war memorial or a gathering place for the multitude, to compare with adjuncts of urban living made common in other localities.

In 1905, Portland staged a World's Fair to celebrate the passing of a century since Lewis and Clark proved up on the annexation of the only portion of the U.S.A. that has never been suzerain to a flag other than the stars and stripes. And, by the same token, while it was not realized at its inception, the Lewis and Clark Fair marked the end of an era in Portland's metropolitan history. Wooden sidewalks and planked streets did not long survive the Fair. Fish wheels and salmon canneries on the Columbia River had seen their day and expanses of logged-off land were beginning to accent the new cry of conservation resounding nation-wide. National forest reserves had their beginnings. Concrete and steel had not yet replaced bricks and timbers in downtown buildings. Still and all, Portland continued to be, and for that matter still is, the lumber capital of the world.

The Oregon State Building of the Lewis and Clark Exposition was built in the form of a giant house of logs and was named the Forestry Building.

Designed only to serve during the fair, it caused so much public interest and admiration that the City acquired it and made it a part of its park system, and although all other traces of the layout of the exposition have long since disappeared, the Forestry Building still stands and serves to impress visitors. Left in comparative silence, the noises and babble of the fair removed, it is more awe-inspiring as it slowly settles to decay than when it was new, if anything may seem new when made up of trees that were centuries old before they were felled and their trunks rafted up the river and ranged into a pretentious shelter for the works of the white man. No man-made thing or work in and about Portland is as telling to visitors as is our Forestry Building.

The original construction cost was only some $30,000. The timber was donated. To duplicate it today would cost several times that much. What is more, it cannot be duplicated in any other region. The structure is 206 feet long, 102 feet wide, and the ridge of the roof is 72 feet above the floor. The

rafters are the trunks of large trees. The floor contains 22,000 board feet of perfect vertical grain fir flooring, i.e., without knot, pitch pocket, or wind shake flaw, a veritable lumber grader's dream of quality.

There is a total of a million board feet of timber in the entire building. Each of the columns composed of tree trunks 6 feet in diameter and standing 54 feet high will make 8,000 board feet of high grade lumber and many laths. There are 64 of these monarchs of the forest standing up and serving as columns or pillars. The walls composed of the same sort of timber are laid up horizontally in regular log cabin fashion, hewed for bearing and notched at corners. The logs are nearly all of Douglas fir; two of hemlock and four of western red cedar among the outside pillar trees are notable exceptions. All the timber was laid with bark intact and it has been maintained in its natural state.

A feature of the architecture is the exterior covering of the gables, with a facing of bark taken from smaller trees and used to serve in the manner of rustic siding. Oddly enough, the bark siding has remained in near perfect preservation, without any attention, while a constant warfare on insects, borers, fungus and dry rot has been waged in order to preserve the wood within the bark throughout the building. No heat or artificial light is permitted in the building, because heat aids the propagation and growth of all forms of biological parasites, and light attracts undesirable insects. No preservative treatment was applied when the building was constructed back in 1904, as it was intended to stand only for the duration of the fair. More recent research in wood preservation has disclosed the possibility of an inexpensive treatment that would have added centuries to the life of the building, whereas, as it stands, the very magnitude of the timbers and the constant losing fight of the caretaker on the agents of deterioration are all that have prevented complete ruin long ago.

Repairing log cabins is a process that just isn't done. And when it comes to restoring them, they are rebuilt altogether. This should be done before long in the case of the Forestry Building for two reasons. First, it is eminently worthwhile for the timber capital city to have its capitol building. Second, it won't be many years hence when the fungi and the bugs and other agencies of destruction have won their fight and our unique temple will be only a memory. Further, unless action to rebuild is started soon, there will be no trees of the caliber available with which the building might be duplicated.

Formerly there was housed within it an extensive collection of the cones of evergreen trees. There are some fine specimens of different woods dressed to show grain structure. One of the most impressionable displays is a tide-land spruce, 173 years old, which had sprouted and thrust its roots into the decaying bark of a fallen Port Orford cedar almost a century before Lewis and Clark reached Oregon in 1805. The cedar log has 304 annual rings and had fallen when only Indians populated America. It was a tree 2 feet in diameter when Columbus discovered America.

The Forestry Building lent inspiration to Mayor Harry Lane at the time of the Fair, on the occasion of the staging of the traditional Rose Show, to

propose an annual Festival of Roses, distinctive of Portland which had become the City of Roses along with its sawdust tang. The Rose Festival also prevails as a characteristic of the civic life of Portland's citizens.

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Make a pilgrimage to this temple and admire it while you are yet privileged.

Forestry Bldg

CITY OF PORTLAND

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

(NOT FOR MAILING)

From Dept. of Building Division — January 13,1944

To Dept. of Finance

Addressed to C. P. Keyser, Superintendent of Parks

Subject Condition of Forestry Building, N.W. Upshur St.,near N.W. 28th Avenue.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with your request, inspection has been made of the Forestry Building at N.W. Upshur Street and N.W. 28th Avenue, with special reference to the frieze and the outside columns of the building.

The frieze or the planchers of this building are in the form of slabs which were four to six inches thick, exclusive of the bark. When they were placed, the bark was on the slabs. Most of the bark has now fallen off. The slabs were attached to the lookouts with heavy spikes and now that the bark has fallen off, this leaves the heads of the spikes exposed. In one place the outer or summer wood on the slab is also peeling and is about ready to fall. The frieze which has deteriorated to the greatest degree is on the north gable at the top. All of the frieze is more or less decayed, but there is no particular hazard here, as only small pieces fall and the failure of the frieze will not weaken the structure, except that the roof would probably sag down between the lookouts. Two employes of the Park Bureau came with ladders at the time of inspection, but the ladders were not of sufficient length to get up to the frieze and inspection had to be made from the balconies. A detailed and close inspection might reveal further weaknesses, but it is believed the inspection was sufficiently close to determine conditions with substantial accuracy.

As to the outside columns, it was found that three are considerably deteriorated. On the westerly side, the column closest to the south end is badly decayed on the outside, but there is a core of solid wood inside, which is probably about one-fourth of the area of the entire column and will support the load at this point. On the easterly side of the building, the column nearest the north end is badly decayed.

CPK - 2 Condition of Forestry Bldg. 1-13-44

The column and the balcony above are settling to a considerable extent and the roof at this point is now supported by the beams overhead. This column has deteriorated to an extent where it is reasonably to be expected it may collapse - perhaps within a few months. The column next to this is also considerably deteriorated, but is not in as bad condition as the one at the end. While there is no particular danger that the building will fail at this point, yet it would be well to put some temporary shores under the balcony and roof to avoid further settlement.

It is obvious that considerable repairing will have to be done to this building in the not too distant future, but outside of the shores suggested above, it is believed the matter may be held in abeyance a few months until weather conditions are better and possibly other conditions will be more favorable.

If further information is desired, this department will be glad to furnish it upon request.

Yours very truly,

B. W. Arnold.

Chief Inspector, Building Division

EAD
bwp

On January 28th, Commissioner Cooper, accompanied by the Superintendent of Parks, the Director of Park Plantings, and the General Foreman of the Bureau of Parks, and Mr. C. W. Raynor and Mr. Dunlap of the Bureau of Building Inspection, climbed all over the Forestry Bldg. and considered all of the questions raised in the above report. No action was indicated, however Raynor stated that there was no essential change or deterioration apparent since his report of 1935.

C.P.K. 1/28/44

January 4, 1943

Dr. Hubert,
The I. F. Loucks Company,
Seattle, Washington

Dear Doctor Hubert:

A friend of mine recently suggested that I inquire from you if there is a wood-preserving process that could be used for large tree trunks with the bark on.

As you are doubtless aware, the City of Portland has kept its Forestry Building standing forty years when it was built to serve only for the use of the Lewis and Clark fair. We have always considered replacing it and if and when we do the intention is to give the timbers such treatment as may be feasible.

I would appreciate any line you could give me on how to tackle our problem.

Yours very truly,

Superintendent of Parks

K:d

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CABLE ADDRESS
"LAUX"

I. F. LAUCKS INC.
Manufacturing Chemists
911 WESTERN AVENUE, MARITIME BUILDING, SEATTLE, 4, U. S. A.

Rec'd JAN 6 1944 Parks

January 5, 1944

Mr. C. P. Keyser
Superintendent of Parks
Bureau of Parks
314 City Hall
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Keyser:

This is to acknowledge your letter of Jan. 4th regarding the preservative treatment of the large tree trunks in your Forestry Building.

While in Portland some time ago, I discussed the problem of treating the bark-covered trunks with someone who was on one of the repair committees and at the time I could get no definite information regarding the condition of the trunk sections. If these trunks are reasonably sound and do not need to be replaced with new trunks, a method of feeding an oil-carried toxic into the wood could be devised.

If you have in mind a method of treating Douglas fir trunks with the bark intact, there is considerable information we can offer toward a successful treating method. These logs or trunks before treatment should have a moisture content of not over 25 per cent in order to insure reasonable penetration of the preservative. Little or no preservative can be expected to penetrate the unbroken bark, but a good treatment can be given the sawed ends, and it is these ends which I believe show the first and greatest signs of decay.

If you will give me a few more details regarding your plans, first as to whether you intend to treat any of the old timbers already in position in the building and also the size, amount, and condition of the new timbers you may plan to use as replacements, then we can suggest the method of treatment and the right preservative to use.

ARMY E NAVY

The type of preservative treatment we would recommend is known as "clean treatment", one which does not discolor the wood, leave greasy, oily, or unpaintable surfaces and one which has little or no odor. This would be ideal for your use and once the preservative has been impregnated in the wood, it resists leaching by water and so insures longer protection against decay.

Very truly yours

I. F. LAUCKS, INC.

By Ernest E. Hubert

Ernest E. Hubert
Chief Pathologist
Wood Technology Dept.

EEH:EAZ

Forestry Bldg

January 19, 1944

Dr. Ernest E. Hubert,
I. F. Laucks, Inc.,
911 Western Avenue,
Seattle, 4, Washington

Dear Doctor Hubert:

I have taken a little time to reply to your kind favor of January 5th, and even at this writing we haven't worked out a definite plan for replacing the Forestry Building.

My guess is that the old Forestry Building is too far gone to start any sort of a woodpreserving treatment that would be of material benefit. The idea is that we will continue to keep it open to visitors as a ruin, if you please, until it has to be condemned.

By that time I should like to have underway, a new Forestry Building on a new site; not necessarily of the horizontal log wall type, but at least featuring five or six foot tree trunks with the bark on for columns, and perhaps bark shingles rather extensively on the exterior.

I have an idea the main walls would better be made of massive rubble masonry. Some years ago, I believe, the Forest Products Laboratory of the U. S. Forest Service conducted some experiments in impregnating growing trees by girdling and causing solutions of blue stone and other chemicals to run with the sap and permeate the entire tree.

I believe the tree was supposed to be felled within a year of the time of the girdling. Such logs as I have in mind to form the columns might as well be selected where they are growing and if this treatment has proved to have merit it would seem to be the answer to our prayer for a preservative of the large trees with the bark on.

What I am looking for is a recommendation for woodpreservative for large rustic timber which naturally is not a

common order in the timber business. I shall have to do some promoting before I can talk of concrete plans.

Again thanking you, I am, .

Yours very truly,

Superintendent of Parks

K:d

CITY OF PORTLAND

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

(NOT FOR MAILING)

From Dept. of Bureau of Buildings January 31,1944

To Dept. of Finance

Addressed to C. P. Keyser, Superintendent of Parks

Subject Old Forestry Building.

Dear Sir:

In connection with inspection made on the afternoon of January 28th in company with you, Commissioner Cooper, Inspector Dunlap of the Building Bureau, and others of your bureau, I am enclosing a copy of a report made to Mr. Plummer for your bureau, as of January 17, 1935. As I read over this report, I find it very applicable to the condition of the building at the present time, with the exception of the condition of the entrance transom glass, which has been repaired, and the addition of a section covering the condition of three of the large columns outside the main walls supporting the outside balconies and overhang of the roof.

These three columns, one on the west side at the south end and two on the east side at the north end, have rotted at the bottom and settled from three to six inches. Little live load comes on these columns. A small panel of outside balcony and the overhanging roof are now largely carried by the other columns and the main wall of the building; the greater part of the load is the weight of the log columns itself.

From appearances, the column on the west has probably settled through undermining of the foundation by water from broken drain pipes.

The columns on the east side have not only settled from broken drain pipe, but the northerly one from crushing of the rotten lower end. This crushing will continue as the decay extends upward, with further sagging of the balcony.

These columns should be repaired by being jacked up; the badly rotted ones cut off, and the foundation on which they rest raised as necessary.

It might be possible to splice them and greatly reduce the cost.

The most important thing is to have the roof drainage system put into working order.

In time it may be necessary to replace the lower layer of logs in the walls, which are showing signs of decay in numerous places. At the present time I think this has not advanced far enough to be necessary. This repair could be made by removing short sections of the rotted logs and replacing them with a masonry wall..

In answer to your request of January 4, 1944, Inspector Dunlap made a report to you under date of January 13th, 1944, which should be reviewed.

Respectfully submitted,

C. W. Raynor

C. W. Raynor
Structural Engineer, Bureau of Buildings

CWR
b

Forestry Bldg

CITY OF PORTLAND

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

(NOT FOR MAILING)

January 17, 1935

From Dept. of Engineer, Bureau of Buildings

To Dept. of

Addressed to H. E. Plummer, Inspector of Buildings

Subject Old Forestry Building - Exposition Grounds

Answering your request in regard to the condition of numerous balconies within and without the old Forestry building at the site of the old Exposition Grounds.

In company with Inspector Arnold, I went over several of these balconies and the stair leading to same and found them all in about the same condition, namely, from four to eight inches out of level, depending on their location and width which varies from six to nine feet.

As this settlement in all cases occurs along the walls of the building, it has no coubt been caused by the greater shrinkage across grain of the wall logs, compared to the shrinkage lengthwise of the columns.

There are two types of balcony construction. In one type the two-inch plank forming the floor runs crosswise, one end resting on the top of one of the wall logs and the other end resting on a round stringer framed to the large tree-like columns. This type could be leveled up by removing the floor and lagging to the wall logs a stringer at the proper elevation and relaying the floor. In the other type, the two-inch plank runs along the balcony, resting on cross beams framed into the log wall and the columns. This type could be leveled off by removing the floor and lagging to the tops of the cross beams wedge-shaped bolsters and relaying the floor. Both types of balcony have a one-inch wearing floor laid the other way directly on the two-inch floor.

The inside stringer of the stairs to the balconies has also been affected by the greater shrinkage vertically of the walls, throwing the stair out of true. These can be trued up by resetting.

Very little new material outside of the wall stringers, blocking, a few pieces of rustic hand railing, and the necessary hardware would be required, as most of the flooring could be replaced if care was taken in removing the same.

The results of shrinkage by settlement are also apparent in other parts of the building. This is especially noticeable at the main entrance, about ten feet square framed in the log wall. Here the pressure of the log wall above has depressed the floor several inches by transmission through the framing for the entrance doors and transoms. Several of the lights in the transom are cracked or broken, due to this pressure.

A casual inspection of the rest of the building shows it to be in very good shape as to safety, at the present time. There are numerous minor repairs that could be made for appearance' sake, such as relaying the brick at the entrance landing, nailing on the bark in places where it has become loose from the logs, and replacing the rotten logs forming the platform at the rear.

The gouging out of numerous rotten pockets which are beginning to develop in some of the logs where exposed to the weather, their treatment and filling with mortar and covering with bark, would retard further decay.

Drainage of the roof and ground immediately surrounding the wall could be improved.

The life of this unique and wonderful building, now thirty years old, could easily be prolonged another thirty years by attention to the matters referred to above. If its usefulness as a structure of interest to all tourists that visit Portland and the northwest is to be continued, this should be done.

Very truly yours,

C. W. Raynor

C. W. Raynor
Engineer, Bureau of Buildings

CWR:MLS

Forestry Bldg

March 13, 1944

Honorable Kenneth L. Cooper,
Commissioner of Finance,
Portland, Oregon

Dear Sir:

Since our visit to the Forestry Building on January 28th in company with Messrs. Raynor and Dunlap of the Building Inspector's office, we have made borings in all of the columns inside and out and have probed into the horizontal logs of the main walls to determine stage of decay.

We have also completed repairs to the rain drains and connections and have repaired the roof, particularly rebuilding a hole ten feet in diameter burned in the southeast gable which started from a neighboring chimney, and which the Fire Department promptly extinguished since our visit. We have also barricaded the public away from the outside columns and barred the inner stairways, with signs reading "Danger Keep Out" on both barricadings.

Altogether our findings indicate that the structure has deteriorated to an extent where it should be regarded as a ruin, too far gone to justify effective replacement of failing members. However, in the nature of the structure, sudden collapse may not be expected; and with a custodian on the job, it will be safe enough for visitors for some considerable time yet, with reasonable safeguarding as noted above and as may be further required.

The Fire Marshall is of the opinion that it should be razed to eliminate a fire hazard, but as the situation has not changed in that respect in the forty years since it was erected, and furthermore in view of slow burning character of all but the roof, I believe it should be continued as an exhibit and object of visitor interest, as long as it may be visited even as a ruin, or until something of a replica can be brought into being.

It has been suggested that the Moses plan program include a new Forestry Building, which might be located on Council Crest or in some other proximate location relating to the Hoyt Park Arboretum. Perhaps it is no longer feasible

to duplicate the massive log walls, but sufficient large trees are still available for the columns. Also the roof and bark shingle covered gables could be replicated in the mode of half timber appearing as an upper story surmounting massive stone walls. The time has not yet passed to build such a structure to last for hundreds of years after the living trees have disappeared.

Appended for reference are copies of reports of the Bureau of Building Inspection, also the record of our borings taken since.

Yours very truly,

Superintendent of Parks

K:d

East Portico North to South Drill travel 16"

Post	1 fir	2 fir	3 cedar	4 cedar	5 fir	6 cedar
Above base 2 ft.	6" shell rotten hollow center	16" rotten center	11" shell hollow center	16" doty	16" doty	16" rotten
4 ft.	8" rotten shell hollow center	16" dry rot	16" dry rot fair	16" fair	16" dry rot	8" dry ro 8" rotten
6 ft.	16" doty	16" doty	16" fair	good	16" dry rot	16" dry rot
8 ft.	16" doty	8" rotten 16" fair	10" fair	good	fair	16" dry rot
10 ft.	16" doty	8" rotten 16" fair	16" fair	16" fair	16" fair	16" dry rot
12 ft.						
3½ ft. from top	16" dry rot	16" dry rot	12" shell dry rot hollow center	dry rot 16"	16" dry rot	16" dry rot

West Portico

Post	fir	fir	fir	fir	fir	fir
2 ft.	16" dry rot	bad rotten	16" rotten	16" dry rot	16" dry rot fair	dangerous
4 ft.	16" dry rot	rotten	16" dry rot	16" dry rot	16" fair some pitch	rotten
6 ft.	16" dry rot	16" dry rot	16" dry rot	16" dry rot	fair	16" dry rot
8 ft.	16" dry rot	16" dry rot	16" dry rot	16" dry rot	fair	16" dry rot
10 ft.	16" dry rot	16" dry rot	16" dry rot	16" dry rot	fair	16" dry rot
3½ ft. from top	rotten	rotten	16" dry rot	16" dry rot	16" dry rot	16" dry rot

Old Structure Shows Years

Rot, Settling Walls Doom Log Cabin

BY PAUL EWING
Staff Writer, The Oregonian

The "biggest log cabin in the world," proposed time and again as the ideal site for an Oregon museum, may continue to entrance tourists but will be getting no new tenants, a group of experts agreed Saturday.

Time, dry rot, settling walls, sagging balconies and fire hazards make the Forestry building, 2771 N. W. Upshur street, impractical for any use than that to which it is being put—a more or less empty mecca for those interested in massive log structures.

The building was erected for the Lewis and Clark exposition of 1905 and already is superannuated for a log cabin, Charles P. Keyser, Portland's superintendent of parks, pointed out.

Portland, which owns the building as part of its park system, has allocated $5000 to restore decayed columns on the outside and make nominal repairs to the roof, Keyser said, but further work would be useless.

Drawbacks Pointed Out

"When timbers like that get to a certain condition of decay, you can't do much about it," Keyser pointed out. "The walls settle, the columns do not, That throws the roof out of line so it is difficult to keep in repair."

So far as using the building for a museum is concerned, Keyser said it was not fireproof —a primary consideration for museum use; it cannot be heated without starting growth of fungi in the timbers, and installation of lights would attract insects that might hasten its destruction.

Keyser said it was possible to use the building temporarily for a museum, but not for long and not for valuable exhibits. A few cases of moth-eaten exhibits, crowded out of the city hall long since, now stand forlornly in the gigantic building. The consensus appears to be that burning the cabin would be a little too drastic means of eliminating the exhibits, but if it should burn accidentally, loss of the exhibits would be some compensation.

The two major organizations interested in acquiring a museum—the Oregon Museum foundation, of which J. C. Stevens is president, and the Oregon Historical society, directed by Lancaster Pollard — distinctly are not interested in the Forestry building.

Building Called Firetrap

"The building cannot be restored," Pollard said. "If it could be, it would not have adequate facilities for a library."

He pointed out that the historical society has thousands of volumes—the best collection of historical data in the region—which cannot be entrusted to a ramshackle building, "and it is not properly designed for that purpose anyway."

Stevens protested the Forestry building was such a firetrap he would be afraid to "put materials in there."

"For a museum, you must have heat, light, janitor service, etc.," he said. "There is too much chance of termites and too much rot under the bark in the Forestry building."

Investigation of the building by The Oregonian disclosed that the main floor of the building, which measures 206 by 102 feet, has its roof supported by 44 pillars—logs with the bark left on—each 72 feet high and averging 6 feet in diameter.

Wood Panels Remain

Posters in the building, apparently left over from the Lewis and Clark exposition, state that it contained 1,000,000,000 board feet of lumber.

It also contains a few beautiful exhibits of wood panels, assorted antique whisky flasks and empty patent medicine bottles in wondrous variety, likewise left over from 1905.

Stairways to the balconies are barred by stout wooden gates. Investigation showed that the balconies—where the flasks and patent medicine bottles repose in dust-covered boxes — have settled 6 inches to 1 foot along the walls, while the open sides, attached to the pillars, remain at the original height.

Footing is bad and there is enough evidence of dry rot to add an element of adventure to balcony walking.

Log rafters also are pulling apart at joints since supporting posts have settled and let them drop.

Few Logs Solid

At least one pillar long since has been wrapped with wire at the upper balcony level to keep bark and dry rot from cascading down on the main floor—which has plenty of its own from other pillars covered with six or eight inches of rotted wood. A few logs give evidence of being rotten or termite-ridden clear through. Few are entirely sound.

Arc lights, used to illuminate the building during the exposition, still hang from the beams. The first electric lights were installed in rest rooms of the building only a week or two ago in preparation for a convention luncheon of park superintendents in the main hall.

The exterior of the upper building and roof is covered with bark shingles, now black with age but still good. Settling, however, has made it virtually impossible to prevent leaks. Many windows in the upper level have been broken and a few have been boarded up.

In spite of these disadvantages, Fred Messner, custodian of the building, says it still draws many tourists each day during the summer. It is included on scenic tours of the city by bus companies.

For their benefit, Keyser hastens to say there is little imminent danger of collapse.

On the museum question, he personally favors occupation of an old building in the vicinity of Skidmore fountain—a building which could be completely remodeled inside while preserving the exterior intact.

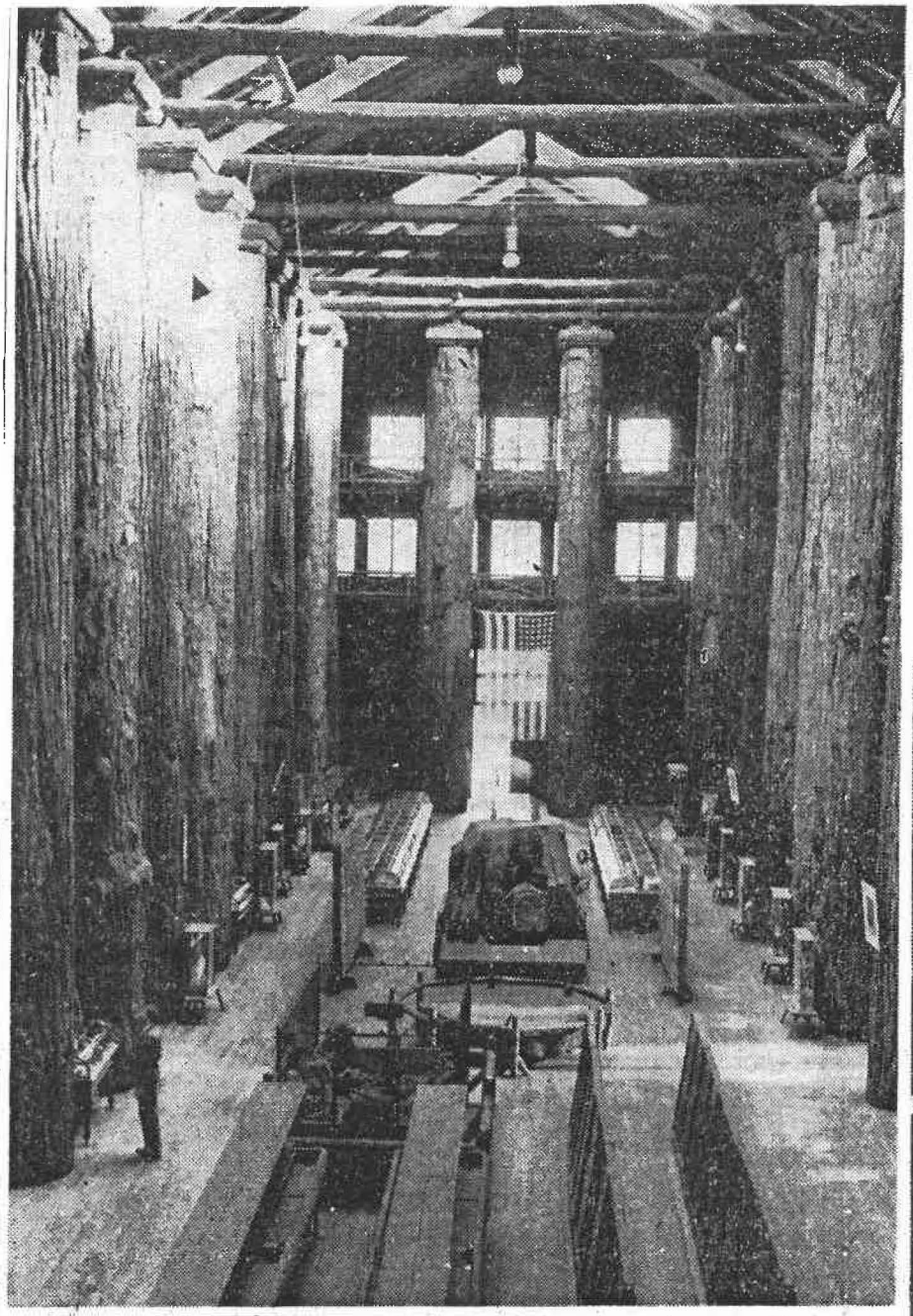
Stevens has the old Failing school building and one or two other possible sites in mind.

Pollard sees a more sensible selection in the Pioneer post office building than in the Forestry building, although alterations there would be too costly to make it a practicable museum.

Other museum suggestions will be welcomed, they intimated, but not the Forestry building again, please!

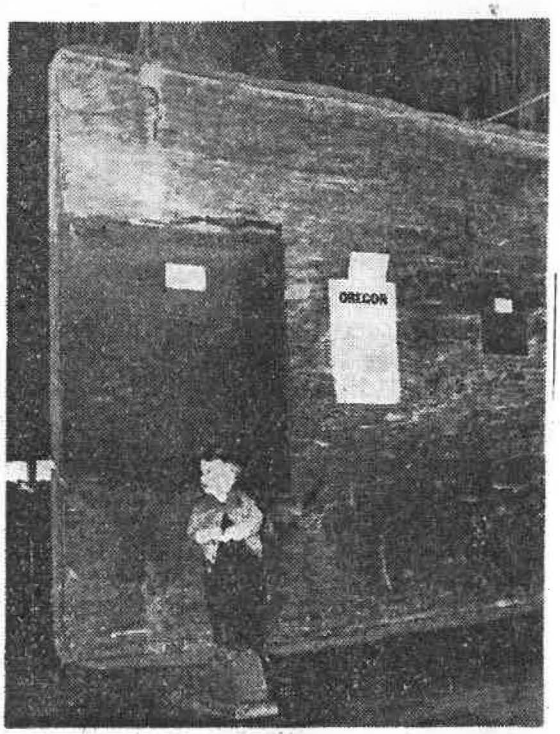
THE SUNDAY OREGONIAN, OCTOBER 5, 1947

Experts Turn Thumbs Down on Forestry Building for Museum

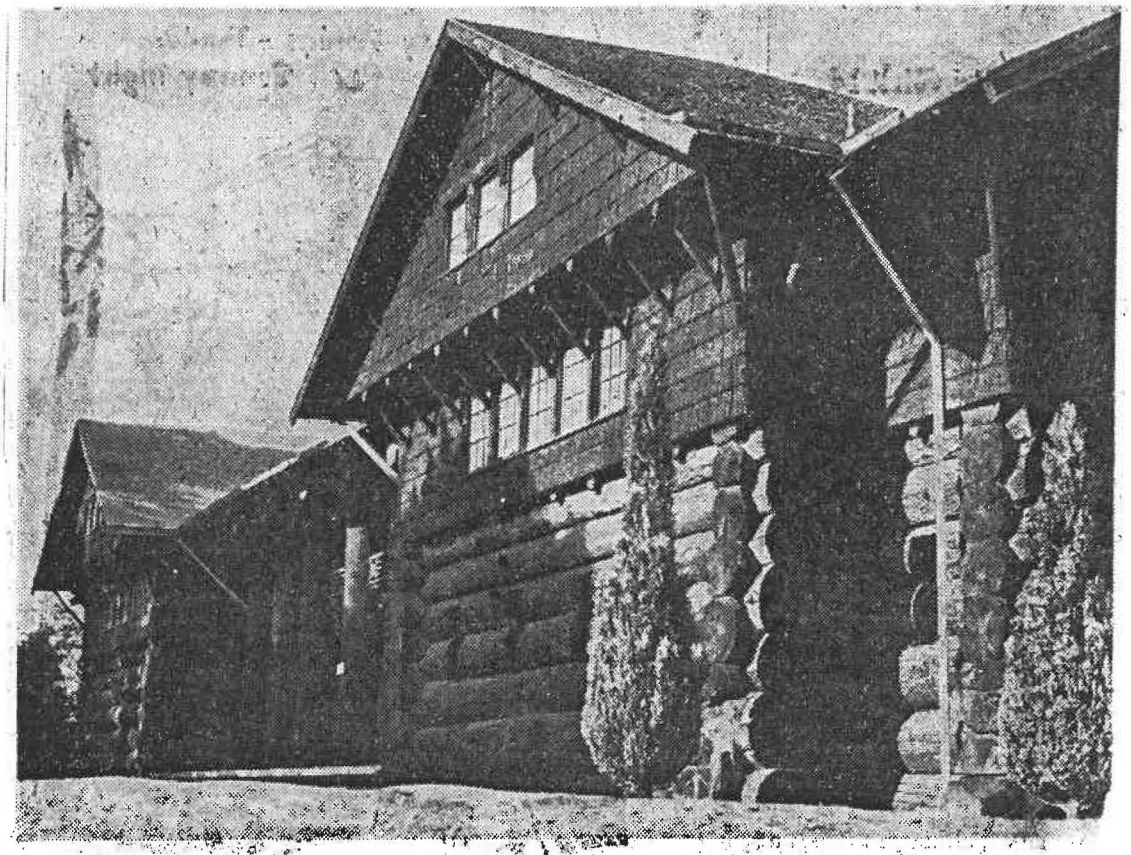


Shaky balcony, closed to public, gives cathedral-like scene in Forestry building, which experts say is too rotten for restoration as museum. Building, erected for Lewis & Clark exposition, is called big firetrap, cannot be heated or lighted without damage. (Photos by Allan J. de Lay, staff photographer.)

Dry rot has eaten into 44 bark-covered six-foot tree trunks which support sagging roof.



Visitors, many bigger than Dennis Dean, 18 months, still visit "cabin" and wood displays.



Settling side walls, which have twisted roof and balconies, dry rot and the general debilities of age have taken heavy toll of Forestry building, called the "biggest log cabin in the world."

THERE'S STILL A STAND OF

BIG TIMBER
RIGHT IN PORTLAND

By LAMAR NEWKIRK

WHERE in metropolitan Portland, in an area no larger than half a city block, would one in this age and day find over a million board feet of timber, a large part of it "standing" and measuring a good five feet through at the butt.

Nowhere, of course, but in the famed Forestry building, at 28th and Vaughn streets, remainder and reminder of the Lewis & Clark fair of 1905.

A recent visit to the old structure, now forgotten by many, revealed some interesting data for then and now comparisons.

Dusty and faded with the years, an old placard tacked to a Douglas fir plank ("call it spruce if you wish," the oldtimers wrote) says Oregon was cutting at the time the "enormous total" of 1 billion board feet annually. Oregon's annual cut has now risen to well over 6 billion feet a year.

The figures posted in the old building giving Oregon's timber stand might well startle not only the ghosts of yesteryear, but forest industry men of today, too.

There were 300 billion board feet of standing timber in the state as of 1904, so the world's fair poster declares. Notwithstanding our vastly increased rate of cut, the 1944 figure stands at—hold your hat—388,632,000,000 board feet, most of a billion feet more than 40 years ago.

Shades of Paul Bunyan. How things must grow in Oregon!

Logs Were Floated Through 'Front Yards'

However, a half century ago, many species now counted as timber were overlooked entirely, and then many parts of the state were so inaccessible that timber cruisers hadn't even bothered to estimate their stands. The 300 billion figure was apparently, just a fairly good estimate, but very conservative.

Logs hauled for the Forestry building would extend some two miles if laid end to end. Some of them are real old-growth Douglas fir saw logs measuring five feet at the butt and four feet through at the top of their 34-foot cut. The big timbers form a row of colossal pillars through the huge structure.

Guild's lake residents shouldn't be startled, but those forest giants were actually floated through their present dry land front yards and almost up to the final location, plodding along in rafts behind tugs from Oak Point in Washington. Larger specimens could have been cut in Oregon, but there was no way to transport them in those days. However, some of the eight linear miles of smaller Douglas fir poles actually did come from Clackamas county.

Present-day loggers would shudder at some methods used to bring in those big logs. Jackscrews, a "long" six-mile logging railway and special tongs were included.

Among exhibits at the exposition in 1905 and still in place is a 9-foot 4-inch Douglas fir cross-section with 574 annual growth rings. It was mammoth then, and still is, but the Siletz country hadn't been opened yet, and from there and other sections in recent years have come trees exceeding 12 feet in diameter.

Many lumber companies, long gone from the Oregon scene, are still represented among the exhibits of Oregon wood in the building. Many of the wide and perfect planks would make officials at army-navy Central Procuring Agency in Portland pop their eyes in disbelief. For lumber like that in any quantity they would pay plenty right now. There isn't enough in the old displays to fill a good 1944 order, but they do show fine examples of nearly every specie of Oregon wood.

Some of the labels have dropped off, leaving light spots unstained by years of exposure. Some of the original labels have been covered, too. Like the "Western white pine" identification now changed to read "Western fir," a new designation that has come with the years.

Among the many interesting oddities that include a 15-foot poison ivy vine sans leaves, is a bole exhibited by the "S. Ban. Flume Co. of Quincy, Or." Oldtimers like George W. Cornwall, editor of The Timberman, recall S. Ban as a venerable Japanese who ran a shingle mill down the Willamette from Portland, and who also operated a general mercantile store and importing business at SW 4th avenue and Morrison street.

Other Exhibits Are Impressive

Other exhibits include boards from the old Tongue Point Lumber company of Astoria, later purchased by the Hammond Lumber company, and burned some two decades ago. Hammond interests, now almost entirely out of Oregon and operating in California redwoods, also had an exhibit of their own.

One of the Tongue Point displays is a solid, one-piece "yellow fir" plank two inches thick, 62 inches high and six feet long, nicely finished and polished.

Around the larger building, so acoustically excellent that visiting concert singers have given it cathedral qualities, are large myrtle, oak and curly maple slabs done to a perfect polish and worth top money to novelty manufacturers.

Home owners, who have paid ten dollars for a short piece of spruce drainboard stock, may well marvel at the value of the 20 by 3 foot spruce slab.

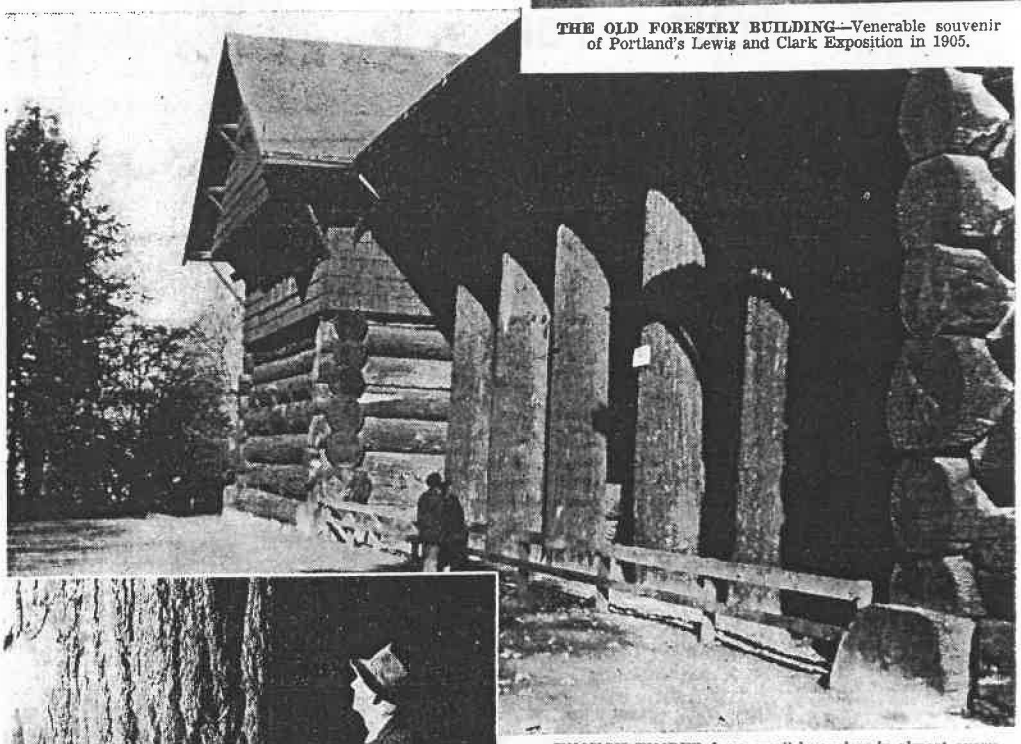
The old log building, 72 feet high is crumbling in places now. One entrance is so dilapidated as to be unusable. The balcony, now unsafe, is closed to visitors. But it is still a showplace.

Ed Gilbert, city park service employe for 20 years and recently made caretaker, says that from 30 to 35 visit the building every day, with as many as 140 on a recent Sunday.

Despite ravages of time that have eaten away parts of some prize logs, little defacing has marred the interior—although since the war someone has carefully cut the word "Japan" from a list of countries receiving Oregon log and lumber exports in 1905.

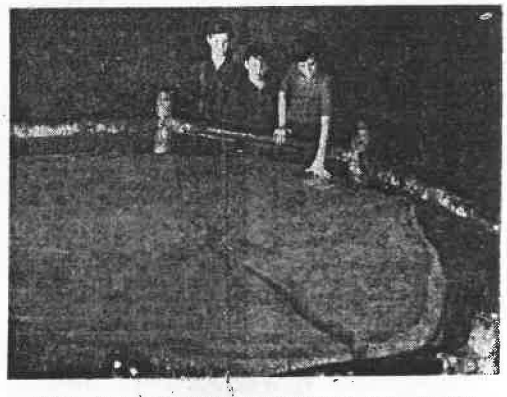
Ion Lewis of Whidden & Lewis; the same Mr. Lewis who later designed famed Cloud Cap Inn on Mount Hood, was the building's architect.

THE OLD FORESTRY BUILDING—Venerable souvenir of Portland's Lewis and Clark Exposition in 1905.



ENOUGH TIMBER for a small bungalow in almost every timber, this 'World's largest' log cabin, the Forestry building, looms huge compared with the figures of a service man and his companion standing at the foot of a 54-foot upright timbers supporting the center section.

'STANDING TIMBER'—Douglas firs, five feet through at the butt and over 50 feet high, are still 'standing,' although cut 40 years ago. These big timbers, being examined by Ed Gilbert, caretaker, are part of a million board feet of logs in the famous Forestry building.



MOST ANY DAY SEES YOUNGSTERS from Portland schools in the old Forestry building, poking inquisitive fingers at impressive timber displays. The three above are eyeing a huge crosscut section of Douglas fir nearly 10 feet in diameter, and over 500 years old.

John L. Noble
1916 N. W. 29th. Avenue
Portland 10, Oregon

November 12, 1947

Mr. C. P. Keyser
Parks Superintendent
Bureau of Parks and Recreation
City Hall
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Keyser:

This letter is in regard to the need of a sidewalk south of the Forestry Building along Upshur street.

At almost any time during a business day automobiles are parked along Upshur street past the Forestry Building thus forcing pedestrians either to walk out in the street dodging traffic or to make three street crossings--across Upshur, then 28th. and back across Upshur street. During the day and particularly at change of shift the vehicle traffic is very heavy. The danger is increased because of the combination of an intersection, a curve, and a steep grade directly in front of the Forestry Building.

On November 7, 1947 in a telephone conversation with Mr. Nussbaumer of the Park Bureau he suggested that I write this letter. He also said that instead of a sidewalk a path might be provided over the park grounds. While the path would serve the purpose, there is doubt in my mind of its being used by the majority of pedestrians. At either end of the path a very steep approach grade, probably requiring steps, would make it very difficult for women with baby buggies or strollers to negotiate. The average pedestrian would probably take the course of least resistance and most danger and walk in the street.

Of course, I realize that to make a curb-level sidewalk would mean excavation of the earth bank and the removal of some large fir trees. But there are many pedestrians

including school children from this neighborhood and from the Guilds Lake Housing Project who go by the Forestry Building and are exposed to this danger several times a day. Therefore I believe a curb-level sidewalk the only practical solution to the problem.

Your consideration of the matter will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

John L. Noble

John L. Noble

cc Mr. Ben Morrow, City Engineer

February 13, 1948

Mr. Hillman Lueddemann
President, Portland Chamber of Commerce
824 S.W. 5th
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Lueddemann:

A certain undersigned minion of the body politic is a pestiferous proponent of the City's Forestry Building, which is perhaps the City's most interesting landmark to strangers within its gates. The Bureau of Parks has maintained this unique structure already forty years longer than was intended when it was built as a feature of the Lewis and Clark Fair. It can be maintained as an exhibit of Oregon's magnificent timber for a while yet, but it does need exigently to have the outside columns replaced.

These twelve tree trunks 40 to 50 inches in diameter and 32 feet long (4 of them badly decayed) have been supporting the eaves between the main wings on both sides of the building. The architecture calls for tree trunks with the bark on. I wouldn't specify the grade of timber of the original logs: in fact, I would do with snag timber of the dimensions, with or without bark and bugs, or any green timber of the calibre ordinarily rated as culls.

The City Council has appropriated $5,000 to make this repair. All of our endeavors to place an order, or let a contract, or inveigle the West Coast Lumbermen's Association into getting us on our way have been fruitless, and so I am appealing to the President of the Chamber of Commerce to lend his influence toward maintaining this valuable pile for its civic benefit, in this particular dilemma of the Bureau of Parks.

And I cannot refrain from adding that I have some bonnie notions of restoring the Forestry Building, preferably by building a new one either in the Hoyt Park Arboretum or, more popularly perhaps, on Council Crest. Before all of the Douglas

firs have gone through the peeler mills we should hold out about sixty of them for columns. Walls could be of massive masonry surmounted by the same bark shingle siding that has proven so satisfactory as a wall exterior in the present building. "The biggest log cabin in the world" idea has its selling points, but I believe we could make an entirely satisfactory substitution of massive stone masonry for horizontal logs.

Some years ago I barged in on Paul Kelty and sold him and Quincy Scott the idea of portraying the history of Portland in ten decade panels, by reproduction of the illustrations of the Oregonian as frescoed walls of this rebuilt Forestry Building. The Publisher, Manager & Co. would not rise to the bait, in fact they back-pedaled and called Viznisky in. Then I got wind of an exhibit of thousands of varieties of wood specimens resected to show grain, bark and growth characteristics, and got a half promise that it would be donated if we had a proper hall to exhibit it in.

I still think the Chamber, with its timber and tourist tinges, and the Oregonian should head up a movement to preserve an asset that might as well be maintained at full value.

You are still a too busy man, but I would like to talk to somebody about this project little and more extensive if you would show me where to hack or bore.

Very truly yours,

Superintendent of Parks

CPK:mp

DOUGLAS FIR PLYWOOD ASSOCIATION

TACOMA BUILDING

TACOMA, 2, WASHINGTON

July 6, 1948

C. P, Keyser, Superintendent of Parks,
City of Portland, Oregon,
Bureau of Parks and Public Recreation,
115 City Hall,
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Keyser:

You will recall that you and George Cornwall of TIMBERMAN magazine scoured the Forestry Building at Portland in search of the exhibits of plywood panels from the Lewis & Clark Exposition of 1905.

And that you came up with a panel which you very kindly sent to us some two or three weeks ago for display during our recent Annual Meeting of the industry.

We appreciate very much your cooperation and feel that the exhibit panel contributed directly to our meeting.

Now, I am taking the liberty of inquiring whether we might retain the panel permanently, to place either here in our office or in our laboratory, which is visited quite frequently by persons interested in plywood and the plywood industry.

I would not make this inquiry except in talking with George, he indicated the panel was no longer on exhibit in the Forestry Building and that this particular sheet of plywood was stowed away up in the attic or some such place. If you have no further use for this particular sheet of plywood, we would like very much to retain it as a permanent exhibit here.

If, on the other hand, you would like to have it returned, we are ready to do so and will ship it back to you immediately. Actually, we clearly understood originally that we were merely borrowing the panel and it is not our intention to take advantage of your courtesy.

Thank you very much for your cooperation. I will look forward to a note from you at your convenience.

If at any time we may be of assistance to you in supplying information on Douglas fir plywood and its uses, please feel entirely free to call upon us.

Thanks again for your courtesy.

Sincerely yours,

Winston H. McCallum

Winston H. McCallum
Publicity Director

whm/vdd
cc: Geo. Cornwall

Forestry Bldg.

July 8, 1948

Mr. Winston H. McCallum
Publicity Director
Douglas Fir Plywood Assn.
Tacoma Building
Tacoma 2, Washington

Dear Mr. McCallum:

Replying to your letter of July 6th, I have no authority to give away anything out of the old Forestry Building. I do not happen to know who owns that particular piece of ancient plywood, but if we ever rebuild the Forestry Building as we have hoped, this, along with other timber exhibits, should be in what would constitute a museum. Meantime, it would probably serve a better museum purpose in your place than in the nondescript collection that the Portland Forestry Building houses.

I think that perhaps the best arrangement would be for us to allow you to borrow this particular piece until such time as we might require it of you.

Very truly yours,

Superintendent of Parks

CPK:mp