

PALMER G. LEWIS COMPANY, INC.



WHOLESALE BUILDING MATERIALS

MAin 4-6661 • 4 So. Idaho Street, Seattle 4, Washington

November 13, 1961

Yakima Herald
The Republic
114 North Fourth
Yakima, Washington

Gentlemen:

Attached is information you might find news worthy.

We feel quite strongly that information or interesting facts regarding Redwood trees would be of interest to your readers.

Yours sincerely,

PALMER G. LEWIS COMPANY, INC.

R. D. Peterson
R. D. Peterson
Sales Manager

RDP/p

Att.



California redwood used in a 74-year-old Southern Pacific Railroad station in Fillmore, California is being salvaged, as the building is partially dismantled, to be re-used in the modernization of the remaining part of the building. The 1 x 12 redwood lumber -- all over 60 years old -- was found to be as good as new. The remodeled offices will have redwood siding -- painted the traditional Southern Pacific yellow -- and redwood paneling inside.

The siding that could not be used in the remodeling was taken by a local firm to build several small buildings.

This is not an isolated endorsement of redwood's durability. Many bidders appear whenever an old redwood-timbered railroad or highway bridge is to be dismantled. They know the timbers are still perfect and will provide sound lumber, usable for years to come.

Redwood lasts. Sound lumber was cut from a log that had lain on the forest floor for 2,000 years. The scientific name for the California Redwood is Sequoia sempervirens -- "everliving" -- and lumbermen say it is practically impossible to kill a redwood tree. An exaggeration, perhaps, but the redwood has few natural enemies either in the insect kingdom or among the decay-producing fungi.

Redwood lasts in climates much more severe than California's. A match factory in Mazatlan, Mexico, still stands after 55 years, although termites and decay quickly ravage other buildings in the area. Redwood pipe and tanks last for decades in the Philippines and Hawaii, where the use of most other woods

is unthinkable because of decay.

A redwood building built in the jungles of Panama by the U. S. Department of Agriculture Bureau of Entomology remained undamaged in an area where 45 native species of termites thrive on less resistant woods.

The red heartwood of Sequoia sempervirens contains certain natural substances which give it remarkable resistance to decay and insect attacks. The light colored sapwood, on the other hand, is as subject to decay or insect attack as that of any other species. It is most important to specify the all-heart grades of redwood where durability is required.

The Forest Products Laboratory of the U. S. Department of Agriculture lists redwood in the "most decay-resistant" class, those few species which are "durable even when used under conditions that favor decay." This makes redwood ideal even for use near the ground, as mudsills, floor joists, or in other foundation uses.

There are almost no termites in a redwood forest. Indeed there are few wood damaging insects of any kind. Of the few American species known to be naturally termite resistant, redwood is the most important commercially because of the greater proportion of heartwood.

A minimum of preventive maintenance is needed to take full advantage of the durability of California redwood. But to insure that "built-in" durability, all-heart grades should be specified. For added benefits such as enhanced

dimensional stability, specify Certified Kiln Dried. The California Redwood Association (CRA) trademark is an added assurance of quality.

Redwood needs no finish. It may be left to weather naturally. Maintenance of unfinished redwood is minimal -- the siding may need an occasional cleaning, a simple process for which the California Redwood Association will provide instructions. A new booklet, "Redwood Exterior Finishes," discusses unfinished redwood and effects obtainable with bleaches, water repellents, and paint. It is available from the California Redwood Association, Dept. RP23, 576 Sacramento Street, San Francisco 11, California.