

Paul B. Kelly — Photo Album

LOGGING FOR OCHOCO:



Left, log dump at an early date before plant is completed. Right, loading logs in Ochoco's timber. Unless otherwise noted, all photographs are from the Kelly collection, graciously loaned to me by Paul's daughter, Jean Zell of Portland.



This is the only photograph I've ever seen of one of Ochoco's logging camp (there was one camp which changed locations once).

PAUL B. KELLY LUMBER COMPANY:

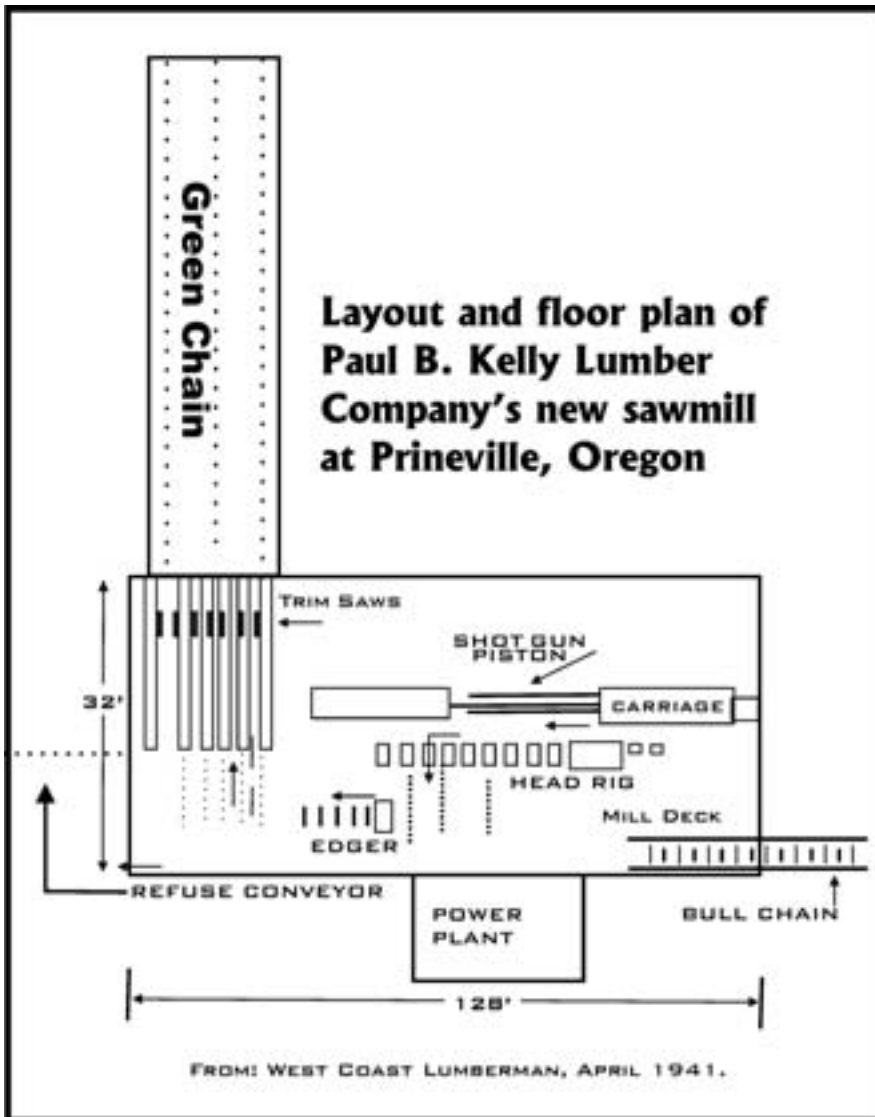


Under construction. I have not learned which direction is which here; the opposite side of the building can be seen below. The short “posts” or “stumps” on right were foundations for the sorting shed (aka green chain), seen on a separate page.



The main part of the mill was in a rather confined location; canyon walls close in. Yes this shot of the drying yard looks spacious. I do not

know where the yard was located. On my visits there was plenty of evidence that various activities were accomplished at different geographic locations. The rather large sawdust piles which still exist, for example, are quite a distance from where the mill was located. Kelly knew that this operation was one of short duration yet it was efficient and well planned. A drying yard was used as no dry kilns were constructed at the mill site. Most of the lumber was sold “green” anyway, hauled to Prineville or Redmond where it was sold to companies that operated kilns.



This drawing of the mill's layout was recreated (by me) from a drawing I found in the April 1941 issue of *West Coast Lumberman*.



Above, is a stately pine, quite large. Photo was marked "1947."

Left, the sorting shed as it was in 1945.

From the photo one can't tell if that is steam or smoke. It was common practice in those days to burn waste in open fires, even in the forest.



These two houses will serve as samples of the many houses that remained at the time of my visit. Some had two bedrooms, some just one. No evidence of indoor plumbing and there was no electricity (the cookhouse probably had “juice” as it was located just up the hill from the mill’s power plant.

The houses were widely separated and the area was beautiful, high atop one of the Ochoco Mountains. While the town didn’t last long, the winters couldn’t have been much fun. While it wasn’t far to Mitchell, real shopping had to be done in Prineville, much further. But regardless of which way you traveled the roads were crooked, steep, and unpaved.



My companions this day were Yvonne Smith, my prime motivator, and Doug Woodward. Between the three of us we figured that this building, because it was more-or-less one room, served as the town’s school. We could be wrong but there was a school at the town.

THE SAWMILL TODAY (2002):



If anyone doubts that a sawmill once operated in this canyon on West Branch Bridge Creek this pile of sawdust should serve as sufficient evidence to chase any doubts away.

The interesting thing about this pile (which is not the only pile at the site) is that it is higher in elevation than the sawmill. I have been unable to learn how the sawdust & other rubbish got from the mill to this site.

This poor-quality photograph shows the remains of the bull-chain. The logs were hauled up the bull-chain into the mill which was to the right out of sight in this shot.



The pine forest as it was on July 27, 1939.

Location not known nor is the name of the man standing in the photo.

This photo was among many unidentified items in the Kelly collection



Kelly log pond as it was in 1945; full!

The mill must be at right in the photo.

Notice what looks like a chute or flume running horizontally behind the pond monkey. I have no knowledge that Kelly used chute or flume so this may be something else.

