

## JUANITA SAWMILL

In 1957 San Juan Lumber Company acquired a 30,000 bf per day circle sawmill at Juanita south of Pagosa Springs. The attraction of this site was that it was on the narrow gauge railroad of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad.

The mill previously operated as the Ace Box & Lumber Company of Denver.

Of interest is the fact that this sawmill was using a log carriage that had been built at the Prineville Machine & Supply Company in Prineville, which was a Hudspeth-affiliated company.

At a time not recorded, Hudspeth sold this plant to others but it continued to operate into the late-1960s or early 1970s.

## SPRUCE MOUNTAIN LUMBER COMPANY

Located at Mancos, Colorado, was a 35,000 bf per day circle sawmill and planer that Hudspeth acquired in 1958. Mancos is 100 miles west of Pagosa Springs.

The sawmill had been owned and operated by the New Mexico Timber Company of Albuquerque. After operating a few years, the plant was shut down and dismantled. The planer was moved to the Pagosa Springs operation.

## WIEDMAN SAWMILL

In the early 1970s Hudspeth acquired the Wiedman sawmill located a mile south of Durango, Colorado, near the Animas River and the narrow gage tracks of the Denver & Rio Grande.

This was a band sawmill and had a capacity of 50,000 bf per eight-hour shift. The operation had its own planer.

In 1976 the plant was expanded with the installation of a new boiler and dry kilns at the planer and sawing capacity was boosted to about 60,000 bf per shift.

By 1983 the Durango sawmill had been shut-down and was auctioned off and dismantled at the same time as the Pagosa Springs sawmill.<sup>7</sup>

## SOUR BROTHERS SAWMILL

Acquired in 1956 or 1957, this was a circle saw mill located at Bayfield, Colorado, 40 miles west of Pagosa Springs. Capacity was about 20,000 bf per day.

The sawmill was dismantled in 1958.

The former owner, Sour Brothers, had built another sawmill and operated it under the name Bayfield Mercantile.

This was a 25,000 bf per day mill which operated for a few years before being acquired by Hudspeth in the early 1970s and dismantled.

## BLANDING, UTAH, SAWMILL

In 1961 Hudspeth<sup>8</sup> built from scratch a 60,000 bf per day ban sawmill and planer near Blanding.

Machinery for this mill came from the now closed Bridge Creek mill and other sources.

In 1972 an oil-fired boiler and four dry kilns were added. The operation continued for a few years and was shut down and dismantled. The equipment was shipped to Prineville Machine for storage.

This equipment was auctioned as part of the company's liquidation in 1983.

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7. This was following the death of John Hudspeth. The operating companies at this time were some \$33,000,000 in debt. Bankruptcy was declared and the disposal of the Colorado assets was part of the company's liquidation. I have in my possession both the bankruptcy and liquidation documents. More will be drawn from these informative documents later.

8. Other histories may record that these acquisitions were made by the San Juan Lumber Company, not Hudspeth. Hudspeth's use of the San Juan name confused more people than just me. Even in John Day where "San Juan" was headquartered the locals knew the company as Hudspeth. For a time Hudspeth named two of his Grant County sawmills with the San Juan Lumber Company name but everyone still called them Hudspeth or Blue Mountain Mills. I use the Hudspeth name to cut down on confusion—mine anyway.