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Summer 2013



BORN IN THE EAST TEXAS SAWMILLS

International company got its start in Pineywoods

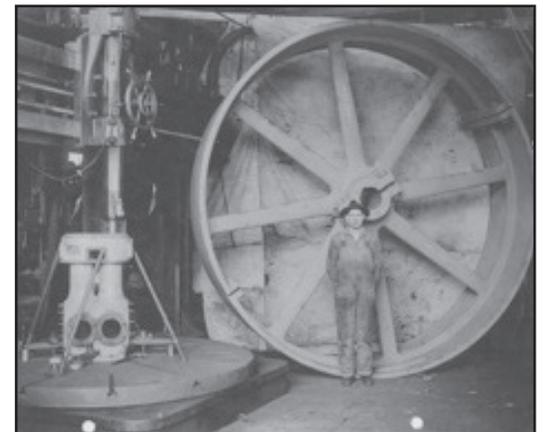
While the sale of Lufkin Industries to General Electric is not finalized as of this writing, changes are definitely happening in the company that has made our city's name familiar all over the world. It's a good time to remember that this international manufacturer of oilfield equipment—especially known for its pumping unit with the bobbing head—got its start in the Pineywoods more than 100 years ago as a repair shop for sawmill equipment.

In 1902, the Angelina County Lumber Company (ACLC) at Keltys was one of the largest sawmills in the state. Equipment breakdowns were a calamity for the company, as idle machines and men meant lost income. The sawmill at Keltys frequently called on Frank Kavanaugh and his small foundry and machine shop in Rusk, Texas, for help with parts and repairs, and sometimes waited weeks for parts delivery.

Finally, the owners of ACLC (J.H. Kurth,



ABOVE: Lufkin Foundry purchased The Martin Wagon Co., a well-known manufacturer of logging wagons and implements, in 1939. This business became the foundation of Lufkin's trailer production plant.



RIGHT: Elbert Butler stands in front of a flywheel manufactured by Lufkin Foundry for the Kirby Lumber Co. at Brown-dell, Texas. Date unknown.

Sr., S.W. Henderson, Sr. and Eli Wiener) decided to solve their parts and repair problem by bringing Kavanaugh and his foundry to Lufkin, a center of shipping and trade located near Keltys. The three lumber company owners, along

with Frank Kavanaugh and his son, signed the charter as founding directors of a new enterprise they called Lufkin Foundry and Machine Company. The Kavanaughs moved their

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*Preserving the
legacy of the
people, places
and products of
the forests
of east Texas.*



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EDUCATION FOCUS

Kids' summer adventures kick off at Museum

An enthusiastic group of kids came to the Museum on May 25th to find out what happens at a "Woodland Wonderland Creation Station."

Guided by volunteer Johnnie Davis, the kids started by getting their hands dirty as they pulled weeds and watered a flowerbed.

Next, Education Assistant Joyce Melton, along with volunteers Michelle Reynolds and Ryan Melton, helped participants make origami birds to hang inside the museum, and pinecone



Children learn how to make origami birds and pinecone bird feeders during the "Woodland Wonderland Creation Station" on May 25 at the Museum.

bird feeders, which were hung outside as a treat for our feathered friends.

Finally, Johnnie sent the kids on their way with a packet of wildflower seeds and a rain lily seedling to plant at home.

"Forest Adventures" will be waiting at the Museum in July. Timber Tots (ages 3 through Kindergarten), and Summer Sylvans (who are entering first to fourth grades), will enjoy fun and activity-packed day camps. ▲

COMPANY STORE

Delve into the details behind Texas historical markers

Did you ever wonder about the "rest of the story" behind a Texas historical marker? The Museum has two books that will take you beyond the short description on the marker and give you a look at the details behind the roadside story. "History along the way, Stories beyond the Texas Roadside Markers" by Dan K. Utley and Cynthia J. Beeman recounts the narratives behind more than one hundred Texas roadside markers. It includes an array of stories ranging from colorful Texas characters to historic structures.

Also available in the gift



Discover the big stories behind more than 100 Texas historical markers with two new books offered at the Texas Forestry Museum's gift shop.

shop is "History Ahead," the first book by Utley and Beeman covering additional Texas historical marker stories. Both books include maps and directions to the marker sites.

The Texas Forestry Mu-

seum's gift shop has been designated the Company Store in recognition of the hundreds of commissaries that served sawmill towns in East Texas history. For more information, call (936) 632-9535. ▲



ABOVE: Interior of the boiler shop where locomotive and sawmill boilers were repaired, circa 1906.

CORPORATION,
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equipment and tools to Lufkin, built three wooden buildings one block south of the town depot near Cotton Square and began repairing sawmill and locomotive equipment.

Within a few years, Lufkin Foundry employed 35 workers, many of whom walked to work and continued to work their family farms on the side. Other employees boarded near the Foundry at the home of a woman named Mollie Thompson. Each morning J.H. Kurth rode in a horse-drawn buggy from his home in Keltys to visit the Foundry and take care of business.

In 1905, a young salesman and inventor named Walter C. Trout went to work at Lufkin Foundry, and soon became an officer of the company. Trout's

business method was to first go out and “sell” the job, then design the machine and oversee its production. The Texas Forestry Museum collection contains a number of 100-year-old sawmill designs, meticulously drawn by Lufkin Foundry draftsmen in ink on special linen paper.

By the close of World War I, the timber boom years were almost over. The Lufkin Foundry would eventually gain worldwide recognition for the manufacture of products for other industries—but it will always be remembered in the Pineywoods as the little shop that kept the sawmills running. ▲

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Note: References used for this article: From Sawdust to Oil: A History of Lufkin Industries by Elaine Jackson and Lufkin Industries, Inc.: Unique in the South by Robert Poland.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 8, 9, 11, 12

10 a.m. – Noon

TIMBER TOTS

Children ages 3—Kindergarten gather at the museum each morning for forestry- and nature-related activities.

July 22, 23, 25, 26

9 a.m. – Noon

SUMMER SYLVANS

Children entering 1st—4th grades come to the museum each morning for forestry- and nature-related activities.

August 22

4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

BACK TO SCHOOL PARTY

Kids' Club members are invited to the museum to celebrate starting back to school.

October 3

5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

TREEMENDOUS CELEBRATION

Help support the museum at our annual fundraiser and Texas Forestry Hall of Fame nomination ceremony.

DONOR FOCUS

Annual Fund Drive coming up!

The museum is getting ready to kick off its 2013 Annual Fund Drive. Your contribution to the Annual Fund is an unrestricted donation that will help us with necessary general operating expenses. Annual Fund request forms will be mailed out in the next few weeks and we hope you will help support the museum by making a donation. Donations to the Annual Fund can also be made on our website www.treetexas.com by clicking the “Giving Opportunities” link on

our home page.

Mark your calendars for our annual TREEMENDOUS Celebration fundraiser scheduled for October 3, 2013 at the Pitser Garrison Civic Center in Lufkin. The evening will include dinner, a silent and live auction and the induction ceremony of the Texas Forestry Hall of Fame. Tickets and contributions for TREEMENDOUS Celebration can also be made on our website. ▲



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Volunteers recognized for invaluable service at annual luncheon

On April 25th, the Texas Forestry Museum treated a large group of its volunteers to a delicious lunch at Ralph & Kacoo's restaurant, and said a special thank you to four of them.

Mary Carroll, a long-time helper who organizes and catalogs the Museum's collection of artifacts, received a plaque in recognition for contributing the most hours of service. Mike Murphrey was honored as Volunteer of the Year. Mike is

a TFS forester who spent many hours directing and coordinating the removal of a large number of drought-killed trees from museum property. Special plaques recognized two "Foundation Builders" – Bobby Young and Donald Vaughn – who have devoted hours of time and loads of expertise to designing and building museum exhibits. The TFM appreciates all of its faithful and generous volunteers! ▲



Museum volunteers enjoyed a delicious lunch at Ralph & Kacoo's restaurant on April 25. Pictured from top left: Mike Murphrey was recognized as Volunteer of the Year for directing and coordinating the removal of drought-killed trees. Donald Vaughn and Bobby Young were honored as "Foundation Builders" for their time and expertise spent building and designing Museum exhibits. Finally, Mary Carroll was recognized for giving the most volunteer hours. The Museum appreciates all of its volunteers!