

# 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

## HUTTIG SAWMILL OBSERVED 50th ANNIVERSARY LAST MONTH

Governor Francis Cherry of Arkansas and Governor Robert F. Kennon of Louisiana in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Huttig, Arkansas, Sawmill Thursday, September 30, participated in a ceremony symbolic of the reforestation practices by which the modern Southern lumber industry is maintaining its forests in perpetuity.

The governors, assisted in felling a 50-year-old pine tree and each planted pine seedlings on the state line between Huttig, Arkansas and Marion, Louisiana. A permanent marker will be placed at the site of the "Governors' Pines." James E. Mixon, state forester for Louisiana, and Fred H. Lang, his Arkansas counterpart, participated in the ceremonies.

The ceremony was part of a program marking the completion of a 16-month modernization program carried out by the Huttig Sawmill of the Forest Products Division of Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation. The dedication program at the Sawmill included talks by the governors and company officials.

Others who were present include John M. Olin, chairman of the board of Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation; John W. Hanes, vice president for finance; Spencer T. Olin, director and member of the finance and executive committees; N. Harvey Collisson, vice president for operations; Oren Harris, Congressman from El Dorado, Arkansas, state and local officials and many persons prominent in the lumber industry, according to an announcement by Robert H. Evans, general manager of the Forest Products Division at Shreveport.

The 50th Anniversary Celebration was highlighted by a guided tour of the modernized mill. Families of company employees and Huttig school children toured the mill on September 29.

The modernization program is believed to be the most extensive ever undertaken at one time in a Southern sawmill. New facilities incorporate many automatic operations and a minimum of materials handling. Among the new devices installed in the mill are a mechanical stacker, a me-

chanical unstacker, automatic edge sorter, Golden Pine trademark, new cross-circulation dry kilns with fully automatic temperature and humidity control, a new 600 x 100 ft. rough shed and a 10-ton overhead crane that stores lumber packages up to 30 feet high.

The modernization program was directed by W. H. Brown, production manager, and J. D. Rhodes, division engineer, and was engineered by the firm of H. E. Bovay, Jr., of Houston.

The Huttig mill draws on a 250 thousand acre tract of Southern pine and hardwood in Arkansas and Louisiana. The tract is part of the company's total holdings of 450 thousand acres in the Ark-La-Tex region. The mill cuts mainly short-leaf and loblolly pine, as well as lesser amounts of oak, gum, and other hardwood species.

Trees are selectively marked for cutting by the company's own forestry department directed by Travis MacClendon, forestry manager, and E. A. Freeman, head forester at Huttig. Logging is done by independent contractors.

Due to increased electrification of these new facilities, the Arkansas Power and Light Company has brought a new power line and substation of greatly increased capacity, which has been tied in with the company's own generating facilities.

The town of Huttig, founded in 1904, has a population of 1,000. Most of its wage-earners work for the Huttig Sawmill which has a \$1,000,000-a-year payroll. Once a company town, Huttig is now changing to a town of home-owners, and more than 100 families have recently purchased their own homes.

The original Huttig Mill was completed in 1904 as the Union Sawmill Company by E. A. Frost and C. D. Johnson, pioneers in the Southern lumber industry. It later became a part of Frost Lumber Industries, Incorporated. In 1952 Frost was merged with Olin Industries, Inc., to become the company's Forest Products Division. Olin merged with Mathieson Chemical Corporation August 31, 1954 to form Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation.