

## Check Type And Treatment When Using Wood

By Johanna Seitz  
It didn't look like the room of a man who promised that a correctly made wooden bulkhead or pier could last at least 20 years.

One corner of Michael Levi's office at N. C. State University was buried in pieces of rotting wood. A glass jar of ship worms—the long, white marine borers that can grow to more than a foot long and drive salty mariners to tears—sat on a cabinet in the other corner, flanked by more chunks of riddled wood.

But Levi, 35, an extension professor of wood products at NCSU, sat in the middle of the rubble recently and expounded on the virtues of wood, particularly for use at the coast.

"Wood is an excellent material for walkways, bulkheads or piers. It's easy to work with, long-lasting when selected and designed correctly, and aesthetically very pleasing. I bet if you took a random survey and asked which people thought looked nicer, hunks of concrete or nice, round wooden piers, they'd pick wood. Wood is also environmentally pleasing because it is a renewable resource and is much more energy efficient than steel or concrete. Wood uses the sun, not artificial energy

like oil or coal to be produced."

Then why does the idea of wooden piers or bulkheads conjure visions of wormy pilings, eaten to hour-glass shapes and sagging in the breeze?

"The biggest problem with using wood is ignorance in either the selection of the right material or the way the structure is actually put together. The major problem, though, is that people don't buy wood that is properly treated. A landowner who wants to put in a small pier will look for the cheapest material, maybe some reject utility poles. They won't last. And if he went with totally untreated wood, the structure would be destroyed within a year. We've had samples eaten up in seven months."

Wood in the marine environment has to withstand currents, waves, fungi, winds and two main types of marine borers—the pill-like limnora which attacks the surface of the wood and the long ship worm which chews the inner wood. Only wood that is treated with preservative can last in the water, Levi said. And only wood treated with specific amounts of copper-chromium-arsenate (CCA) will endure salt water.

"CCA has only been

available in the U. S. for marine use for a relatively short period," Levi continued. "Creosote was used before that with bad results. So what happened was wood got a bad reputation. The thing to do when you're buying pressure-treated wood is to say exactly where you want to use it and to specify that it be treated to American Wood Preservers Association standards for marine use and branded or marked with the stamp of the treater. This is something a lot of people don't think of when they're buying wood—although when they shop for other items they look for a guarantee of quality."

It is essential to say exactly where the wood will be used. Levi said, because the level of treatment varies considerably. Wood that will be used above ground needs only .25 pounds of CCA per cubic foot, for example, while wood used in salt water needs 2.5 pounds.

Wood that will be in fresh water can be treated with either CCA, creosote or pentachlorophenol, he said. Southern pine is the best material for either salt or fresh water use, he added.

Even if the correct wood is purchased, structure can be doomed to failure if incorrectly built. Fasteners, for example, must be made of stainless steel or heavily galvanized steel or else they will rust away, Levi said. And structures must be built to adequate strengths and planted to proper depths. The correct size, shape and position of the structure are also crucial. An incorrectly placed bulkhead, for example, can insure its own destruction or cause erosion at the lot next door.

"It's a good idea to get some design advice," Levi said, adding that tips will be available from the Sea Grant coastal engineering advisory agent who will be working on the coast after the first of the year.

"With a little extra thought in the very early stages—selection of materials and design—you can save a tremendous amount of money over a very short period by removing the need for maintenance or repair," Levi said. Timber structures generally cost less to build also, according to an NCSU engineer. With an-

nual checks for damage, a well-built, well-preserved wooden structure should last at least 20 years at the coast, Levi repeated.

Levi and five other speakers from NCSU and the wood industry will share more of the do's and don'ts about wood construction in the marine environment in a seminar October 7 and 8 at the Blockade Runner in Wrightsville Beach. The seminar, which is sponsored by the UNC Sea Grant College Program, NCSU Departments of Extension Forest Resources and Civil Engineering and the N. C. Wood Preservers Association, will speak mainly to engineers, architects and contractors who would like to know, in detail, more about using wood at the coast. But the two days of talks and field trips will also be valuable to lay people interested in building a pier, a bulkhead or any other nearshore structure, Levi said.

For more information on the seminar, contact Levi at the School of Forest Resources at NCSU. Registration for the seminar is requested before the end of the month.

### Chrysler Hall Musicals Set

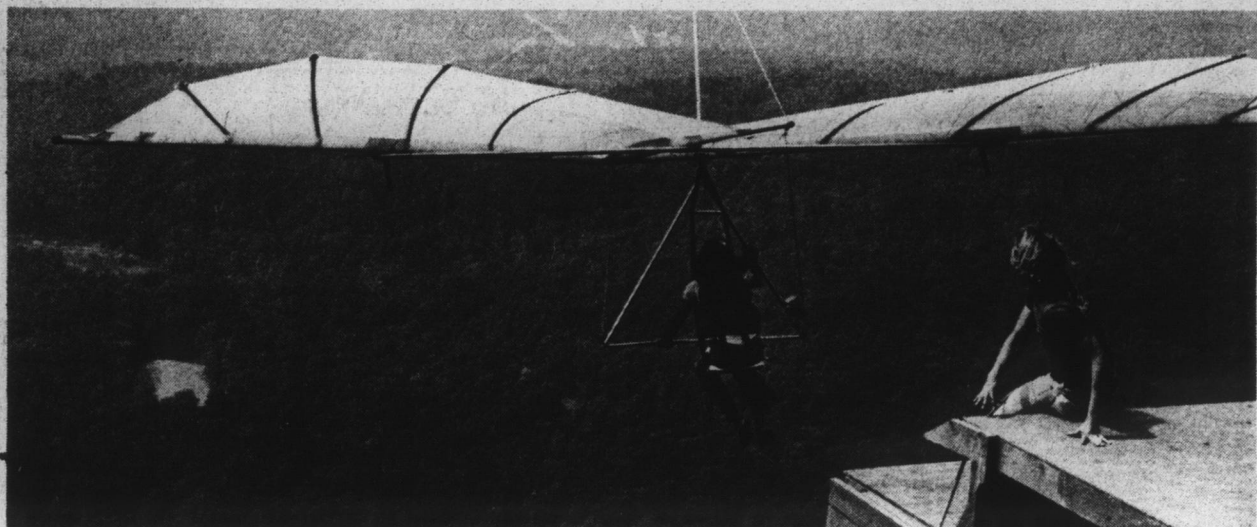
NORFOLK, Va.—Scope management will have its own series of winter theater attractions at Chrysler Hall this year. The 1976-77 selection of four shows is described as "outstanding."

Two family musicals, "A Little Night Music" and "Shenandoah", are scheduled. On the lighter side, "Absurd Person Singular", a British comedy, will be offered.

The fourth production will be "Sherlock Holmes", a Victorian melodrama.

The new series will open October 2 with "A Little Night Music." Other productions are scheduled for November 13, December 4 and April 16.

SUMMER GRADUATE  
CHAPEL HILL—Robert Wallace Worrell of Edenton graduated in the summer class at the University of North Carolina here. He received an A.B. degree. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth J. Worrell, 4 Stratford Road.



MASTERS OF HANG GLIDING CHAMPIONSHIP—Terry Sweeney of Concord, N. H., will be defending his Grandfather Mountain title this week as the Masters of Hang Gliding Championship is held Thursday through Sunday. Forty of the nation's top hang glider pilots, selected for their outstanding competition records, make up the contestant roster which includes most of the big names of hang gliding in America. Sweeney is shown at Grandfather Mountain in a recent practice flight of his Merlin glider, a new design which Sweeney invented. At the right is Joe Foster, with rope around his waist to prevent falling from the launch platform, who held the nose wires of Sweeney's glider during launch.

## 'The Hiding Place' To Hold Limited Showing Here

Edenton has been selected for a limited engagement during November for the area showing of the motion picture "The Hiding Place." It is to be shown at the Taylor Theater for three days opening November 7.

World Wide Pictures, an arm of the Billy Graham Organization, announced

that Dr. Robert Gray has agreed to serve as the executive chairman of a local group of citizens who are formulating plans for the showing.

The film, starring Julie Harris, Eileen Heckart, Arthur O'Connell, and introducing Jeannette Clift, is an accurate portrayal of the book of the same title. Based on the true story of Corrie

ten Boom, this book has been read by over 8-million people. During World War II, Miss ten Boom, who is now in her 80's, was responsible for smuggling many Jews out of Holland which resulted in her family being imprisoned in a Nazi concentration camp.

"The movie is so realistic, that I relived part of that time when I saw it," ac-

ording to Miss ten Boom.

Dr. Gray announced that many local pastors and lay people have expressed a keen interest in the film because of the wide readership of the book. The local committee will be handling advance ticket sales as well as a major share of the arrangements in preparation for the film showing.

### Ward Releases Country Single

Roy Ward, a native of the Albemarle Area of North Carolina, is riding on top of a brand new country music release with "A Chance To Try Again" on the Cash Label.

A story in "Jenny's Swingin' Country Newspaper" hailed the new release and predicted that it would get plenty of airplay on radio stations across the country.

Ward has been interested in country music most of his life. He has a deep base voice and can sing all the top country hits, and sometimes tries a little rock.

During his musical career, Ward appeared with some of the top stars out of Nashville, Tenn.

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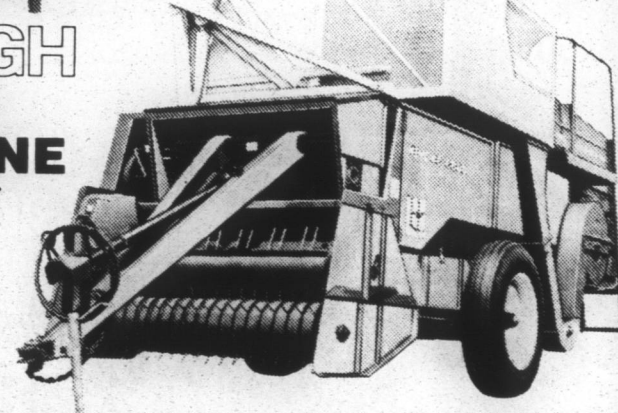
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