

MEET YOUR MERCHANTS

Zickgraf Hardwood Company

A New Era Came Bringing Zickgraf's Mill To Macon

Zickgraf Has 53 Employees In Mill Now

Turnover Rate Is Low; Average 10 Years Each

Zickgraf Hardwood Company employs 53 people. The turnover rate is very low, average length of employment for each person is about 10 years.

Heading the company is Grant L. Zickgraf, President and General Manager. Mrs. Grant L. Zickgraf and W. C. Zickgraf serve as first and second Vice-Presidents, respectively. Secretary-Treasurer and Assistant Managers are G. W. Faulkner, Mr. Faulkner is also Sales Manager. He came with the firm in 1942. Mrs. Gladys Walker is Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Ruby Brookshire is bookkeeper, Miss Ruth McCollum is receptionist, and Miss Winnie Bates is employed as secretary.

Howard Willis is production foreman and chief lumber grader of the grading chain department. Working with him are John Sanders, David Cook, John Crisp, John Williamson, O. W. Graham, Weaver Sanders, Harvey Vanhook, and Harley Tyler. Employed in the lumber receiving yard are Foreman, Neville Cabe and Ralph Elliott. Foreman of boilers and dry kilns is Harle Barnes. Also employed in this department are Marion Seigle, Lorn Rogers, and Robert Brown.

E. C. Harmon is production foreman and machine foreman of the flooring unit and planing mill. Working with him are John Carpenter, Rass Justice, George Roper, Warner Harris, C. W. Bridgeman, Robert Swafford, Ezell Bryant, Ralph Justice, Furman Stewman, Jesse Norton, T. N. Roper, Weaver Fox, Howard Roper, Homer Moss, David Cabe, Odas Mashburn, Don Henderson, Roby Roper, C. F. Mashburn, Paul Morgan and Jud Morgan.

Shipping yard foreman is Harold Scott. Also working in this department are Thad Cloer, Claude Crunkleton, Frank Jones, Frank Crisp, Charlie Ledford, Thurman Henry, Bill Younce, Terrell Roper, and Willis Teem.

Now Buys Lumber From 100 Mills

By NORMAN B. SMITH

W. C. Zickgraf brought the Zickgraf Hardwood Company to Franklin in 1933. It has operated continuously here ever since. Before coming here, the Zickgraf family had operated mills in Michigan, Tennessee, South Carolina and Georgia starting at Vanderbilt, Michigan in 1895.

At first in Franklin there was just a band mill; logs were bought, delivered and rough lumber was shipped out by rail. By 1935 the company began to get part of its logs from its own logging operation. In that year, too, the Zickgraf Hardwood Company was incorporated. Included in the company was the family's third generation sawmiller, Grant L. Zickgraf.

By this time logs were being brought in from three states; North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. In this area tracts of timber were bought from the U. S. Forest Service, and the small land owners.

Then came the big change. A planing mill was set up in 1938 and in 1940 dry kilns were installed. The year 1949 saw the first hardwood flooring being completely finished and sent all over the country with the familiar "Zickgraf" stamp.

One day in 1953 folks who live down near the river heard the whine of the Zickgraf band saws for the last time. They saw the unloading boom swing its mighty arm for the last time. For the band mill was sold and shipped away.

Not long did the yard stay empty. Soon came piles of rough cut lumber, piles that became higher and higher, and pushed right up against the tracks and clear out to the road. From 100 mills, from three states this lumber came.

In exactly 20 years Zickgraf Hardwood Company had completely reversed its operations. From a buyer of logs and producer of rough lumber it had been transformed into a buyer of rough lumber and a manufacturer of finished lumber. It has acquired a nationwide reputation for oak flooring and rough hardwoods of a demanded quality that comes only from

our southern Appalachian mountain area.

What will happen in the next year or two or the next decade no one knows. The changes in demand and production of wood products may be far-reaching. Whatever the outcome, have no fear. Zickgraf Hardwood Company will be here, making the best of things, employing our people, buying our raw materials, bringing money into Macon County from all over the United States.

Local Outlet Is Nantahala Lumber Company

Nantahala Lumber Company is the local lumber outlet of the Zickgraf Hardwood Company, Incorporated.

This company now has a full line of building materials in addition to lumber products.

Nantahala Lumber Company is under the supervision of Herman Teems and Wayne Faulkner. Just as is the case with each of the organizations affiliated with the Zickgraf company this company has its goal, "the greatest service to its customers at the lowest practical cost."

Local People Hired; Buys Area Products

Grant Zickgraf has faith in Macon County and its people. He says "We have the best labor in the United States." To back up his statement he can point to an average 10 year term of employment for 53 people who work at Zickgraf Hardwood Company.

In the next 10 years he predicts astonishing growth for the county. Franklin will become both an industrial and merchandising center of this entire region he feels. He also feels that the forest which supply raw material will help in the growth of a great tourist business in this area.

Zickgraf Hardwood Company has done a lot to contribute to the growth of Macon County since moving here in 1933. To begin with almost 100 per cent of the employees are native Maconians. Zickgraf Hardwood Company utilizes raw materials coming exclusively from sources within 75 mile radius of Franklin. On the sales end, Macon County benefits both from a large variety of finished lumber products available locally and from product sales income coming in here from all over the United States.

No less than four major operational changes in the company's 25 years existence proves that it is willing and able to adopt to new trends in wood products manufacture. Zickgraf Hardwood Company recently led

THIS FRANKLIN PLANT HOLDS REMARKABLE SAFETY RECORD

The safety record held by Zickgraf Hardwood Company is coveted by many other manufacturing concerns. In the past 10 years there have been only two accidents worth recording, and neither of these resulted in permanent disability of the workman involved.

This is a most unusual situation where there are saw blades, planing knives, flying bits of wood, and all sorts of accident hazards.

The record is considered by President Grant Zickgraf to be partly because of the low turnover in employees. The men learn their jobs to an exactitude. Another factor is the stress on safety via many well-located posters and signs.

Dispite this lack of mishap there are conveniently placed, well-stocked first aid centers in the plant.

Around a lumber mill second only to the fear of disabling accidents comes the threat of fire. All the kiln dried lumber and sawdust is a veritable tinder box awaiting only the slightest spark to start a conflagration.

all but a few of the nation's finished lumber manufacturers in producing packaged wall paneling — comes in matched packages to eliminate fitting and matching, no nails necessary.

Father And Son



Shown together are W. C. Zickgraf, the moving spirit behind the growth of the Zickgraf Lumber Company, and his son, Grant Zickgraf, president of the company today. The mill was brought to Franklin in 1933 by the older man and his guiding hand has been ever present in its continual growth. Grant took over the direction of the company in 1953.



It's Not Easy — Board To Flooring: Long And Difficult Operation

Some four months and a lot of hard knocks await the ob- secure piece of unfinished lum- ber that is to be made into a length of flooring, sleek and smooth to be shipped away proudly bearing the stamp, "Zickgraf Flooring". To really learn just how many hard

knocks ask for a guided tour. Visitors are always welcome at Zickgraf Hardwood Company.

The lumber is unloaded by fork lift from a truck and graded according to National Hardwood Lumber Association specifications. (It must first endure a water and chemical bath if it happens to be Pine or Poplar or some other softwood. This removes the staining qualities of its sap). Among other things it is checked for worm holes, bird pecks, rot and mineral stains. It moves along, having acquired some personality in the form of a chalk mark—S or / or A or X or even // . It is then sorted and stacked in packages and moved to the yard where it may spend three months air drying.

Then one day along comes a husky fork lift that will carry it to the dry kiln where it remains from 6 to 20 days, depending on its condition of DRYNESS, beginning at 100 degrees temperature and soon building up to a sweltering 190 degrees. The kilns are completely automatically controlled which season the board correctly so as to prevent damage to lumber.

The five mammoth kilns, which hold 175,000 board feet of lumber, are heated by two boilers. The boilers are fueled with shavings and sawdust from the planing mill.

TO THE MILL
As soon as the period of confinement in the kiln is over, the lumber is carried to the whirring, clacking mill. First it is ripped into three inch strips. Then its frantic pace leads it through a planer and end matcher which dresses both sides of the strip and tongue and grooves it at the same time; this is followed by a set of matchers which match the ends.

SENT OUT
Finally the "Zickgraf" trademark is stamped on, it is bundled with kindred sizes and qualities, and it is strapped for shipping. By rail and truck the flooring is transported all over the United States and even into Canada.

DISPLAYED WITH PRIDE
The lucky homeowners who install it are careful not to use too many rugs or carpets so they can display with pride their Southern Appalachian Oak Flooring, expertly finished by Zickgraf Hardwood Company.

OTHER PRODUCTS
Although Oak Flooring is a specialty, amounting to well over half of the company's annual production of seven million board feet of finished lumber, there are a number of other products. These include Pine Flooring, Framing, Wall Paneling (in 15 different varieties of wood), moldings of any specified dimension.

WASTE USED
Waste products are all utilized. What sawdust and shavings are not used in the boiler are sold to farmers for chicken house litter. Scrap waste is sold as fire wood. These sales are made by Louin Cabe, who has contracts for all the waste the company cannot use.

First Mill In 1895



Shown above is the first mill operated in America by the Zickgraf family at Vanderbilt, Mich., in 1895. In the picture (4th from left) is W. C. Zickgraf as a young man.

Modern Mill In 1958



This air view shows the present Zickgraf mill and lumber yards complete. Shown in the background is the Franklin Airport.

In This Series . . .

YOU WILL MEET

- Franklin Hosiery Company
- Nantahala Lumber Company
- Franklin Machine Shop
- Burrell Motor Company
- The Carolina Pharmacy
- People's Department Store
- Conley Motor Company
- Reeves Hardware Company
- Macon County Supply Company
- Macon Theatre
- Franklin Indoor-Outdoor Theatre
- The Fashion Shop
- Franklin Gem Shop
- The Twin's Shop

YOU HAVE MET

- Belk's Department Store
- Franklin Hardware Company
- Franklin 5 & 10c Store
- Our Mountain Home Gift Shop
- Macon County Airport, Inc.