

Keith, John Henry Kirby (Merryville and east Texas), William Henry Sullivan, Robert Alexander Long and C.B. Sweet had vast timber holdings and many mills, as did Joseph Bentley, John Barber White (1847-1923) and his son Raymond White in 1913 with the *Louisiana Central Lumber Company* and Oliver Williams Fisher. These are some of the industrialists who developed sawmills and sawmill towns in Louisiana from Alexandria to Fisher and south to Lake Charles. John Galloway and his family lived at the family-owned Galloway sawmill in Graybow.^[3]

The large sawmill owners were accustomed to union activities, and made plans to prevent unionizing. They formed several industry organizations, such as the *Southern Lumbermen*, who collaborated on freight rates, wages, and work hours. They also collaborated to deal with shortages of railroad cars, establish uniform wages and hours, and limit competition. They kept up with the labor situation and prevention of unionization. The Southern Lumbermen's Association, Southern Lumber Manufacturers' Association, Southern Lumber Operators' Association, Yellow Pine Manufacturers' Association, and Texas and Louisiana Saw Mill Association were examples of the cooperation among industry lumbermen. They were opposed to any labor organizing. As mill owners had also developed company mill towns, they exercised great power over the workers and could expel them from housing for union activities. Long-Bell was one of many very large companies that built many sawmills and towns. The *Missouri Lumber and Land Exchange Company* (Exchange Sawmills Sales Company), associated with the *Missouri Lumber and Mining Company*, had sawmills in Grandin and West Eminence, Missouri, and the *Ozark Land and Lumber Company* in Winona, Missouri. The *Louisiana Central Lumber Company* had mills in Clarks (1902), adding the Standard mill in 1906; the *Louisiana Long Leaf Lumber Company* had mills in Fisher and Victoria; and the *Forest Lumber Company* had a mill in Oakdale by 1913). In 1918 the *Louisiana Sawmill Company* built a mill in Glenmora, and the *White-Grandin Lumber Company* founded one in Slagle near Leesville. The mill complexes included feeder railroad lines constructed by the companies, which also owned all the land.^[4] Pacific Northwest Labor and Company/

To ensure that mill hands were and remained loyal, the owners required them to verbally profess loyalty, sign a non-compete clause, and, before it was ruled illegal, sign a Yellow-dog contract promising not to join a union. The companies used blacklisting against activist employees; given the cooperation between mills, if a man was blacklisted, he usually could not get work at any mill. Many mill companies paid wages in company scrip rather than cash. Scrips were only good only at the mill worked at, so if a man was fired, he would be unable to find work, would have no place to live, and would have no cash with which to ease his transition. This was compounded even more if a mill worker had family, and gave mill owners an absolute power and Timber magnates showed they could be vindictive. A strike would also result in a lockout and outside workers brought in.^[5]

The way to gaining more profit in the lumber industry lay in saving money everywhere possible. Sawmills were set up along major railroad lines for access to shipping, the best locations were picked, and a mill town built. The towns contained everything a community would need. The housing was laid in rows on streets with street lights. The houses had electricity, water, indoor plumbing and sewer, and was furnished. The yards were landscaped with white fences. The mills provided large commissaries, schools, churches, theaters, hotels, a post office and doctors office. There was a fire department, barber shop, and sawmills around DeRidder received ice from the *Hudson's Bay Ice Company*. A *Ford's Opera House* was built for entertainment for workers. There were bunkhouses for single men.

In the early 20th century, many mills had hired black and Chinese workers in addition to whites. Chinese immigrant had been recruited for field work in the South, but most soon left the cotton fields.) Workers were