

in the principal Vernon Parish history, Tall Pines II. ²

BOWMAN-HICKS LUMBER COMPANY OF LORING, LOUISIANA

The present-day sawmill ghost town of Loring, Louisiana, is located about three miles east of Zw and about eight miles northwest of Many on the Kansas City Southern Railroad. In 1905, it wa prosperous mill town of 1,000 population. Located adjacent to Highway 171 in Sabine Parish, Lo was also the location of Bowman-Hicks Lumber Company's largest Louisiana sawmill, the other be a 25,000-foot mill at nearby Plymouth. With its general and sales offices located in Kansas (Bowman-Hicks also had several mid-Western retail outlets, but the firm was much smaller than other Kansas City sawmillers, namely, Central Coal, Pickering, and Long-Bell, that rushed Western Louisiana in 1895. To begin with, one of the writer's histories of Bowman-Hicks Lurr Company at Loring reported that the entire installation, sawmill, planer, kilns and yardstock, burne total loss of \$100,000, at 7:30 PM of February 24, 1906; nevertheless, another history of Septem 1906, reported the sawmill as already rebuilt. A third history of Loring reported that: ³

" . . .The company purchased the property of Plymouth Lumber Company in 1900. The old mill was located about 3/4 mile north of the present one and had only a small circular saw. It was dismantled in 1903, and the present mill erected.... The men of different nationalities... are segregated, the Americans, Mexicans, Italians, and Negroes occupying different localities... The hotel is excellent and is presided over by W. H. Wood...

" . . .There is a substantial school building, and the school is in charge of an excellent teacher, Prof. T. C. Gibson. There is an artificial (log) pond of large size, supplied with an abundance of water...

" . . .When Superintendent J. T. Burlingame took charge of the plant, the mill was cutting about 55,000 feet daily. In less than six months, the output was increased to 135,000 feet... Very little attention is paid to the export trade, as the interior demands are greater than can be met.

W. C. Bowman of Kansas City was president and general manager of Bowman-Hicks Lurr Company, and George R. Hicks was secretary- treasurer. Superintendent Burlingame, a Cor graduate, spent ten years with King-Ryder Lumber Company, a Long-Bell subsidiary at Bon / Louisiana; at Burlingame, Arkansas; and in Oklahoma; and Burlingame in both Arkansas and Kan were named after him.

Other key personnel at Loring in 1905 included E. L. Gossett, shipping clerk; R. M. Framp bookkeeper-cashier; D. C. Pettit, stenographer; Joseph Kisler, sawmill foreman; E. O. Smith, y foreman; James H. Roscoe, planer foreman; J. A. Henderson, woods foreman; Fred Huber, saw engineer; Charles Slocum, planer engineer; Rube Lindsey, Ed Taylor, J. C. Kisler, Jr., sawyers; G Labery, Calvin Henson, locomotive engineers; C. E. Whitman, filer; Tony Carroll, A. M. Nor checkers; Dr. F. C. Bennett, mill physician; T. C. Gibson, teacher; and T. C. Simpson, deputy sheriff

The 135,000-foot Loring sawmill was equipped with two single- cutting band saws and one sir circular saw, driven by an 18x24-inch, 150 hp. steam engine. The planing mill contained one Berlin planer-matcher, two 8" matchers, two Berlin 9" matchers, one 12" Berlin moulder, one res and two edgers, rotated by another 150 hp. engine and two 16'x66- inch boilers.³ In May, 1908, flooring machine and one fast-feed surfacing planer were added to the mill to increase daily plar capacity to 200,000 feet. The firm owned one Standard dry kiln, that could steam-dry 40,000 feet d. Also the old hotel building was completely remodeled in 1908. ⁴

In 1904, the total output of the Loring sawmill was 33,000,000 feet, with another 10,000,000