

board feet of lumber. Most of the virgin pine had been cut, and many operators had moved to new locations, often to the Pacific coast, leaving vast cut-over areas behind them.

Under the New Deal program of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Texas lumbermen participated in the drafting and administration of the National Recovery Administration fair-practice lumber code during the brief life of the NRA. The [Civilian Conservation Corps](/handbook/online/articles/ncc01) fought forest fires, cleared underbrush, and planted pine seedlings in the state forests and other public lands. The federal government purchased more than 600,000 acres of cut-over land and established four Texas national forests. On these and other lands the United States Forest Service and the Texas Forest Service began the long-term task of developing a vigorous second-growth forest that would provide timber, recreation facilities, and an improved wildlife habitat for the next generation of Texas citizens. Slowly, timber production increased to predepression levels, so that by 1940 the state again reported an annual cut of more than a billion board feet. The same decade saw the first successful production of newsprint from southern yellow pine. After Georgia chemist Charles Holmes Herty had developed a satisfactory experimental newsprint pulp in his laboratory, he interested Ernest L. Kurth, Arthur Temple, Sr., and others in establishing a commercial venture to produce newsprint for southern newspapers. This group built the Southland Paper Mills at Lufkin, which began operations in 1940. Thus began an important new industry that spread to other parts of the South. Also, timber growers, large and small alike, had a profitable new market for their pine trees.

The generation after World War II saw a revolution in the Texas lumber industry. The introduction and widespread adoption of the log debarker opened the door for the production of a variety of wood products and the utilization of much more of the total tree. Texas pine now went into laminated beams and other engineered wood products such as particle boards, fiber boards, and wood flour, plus a myriad of paper products