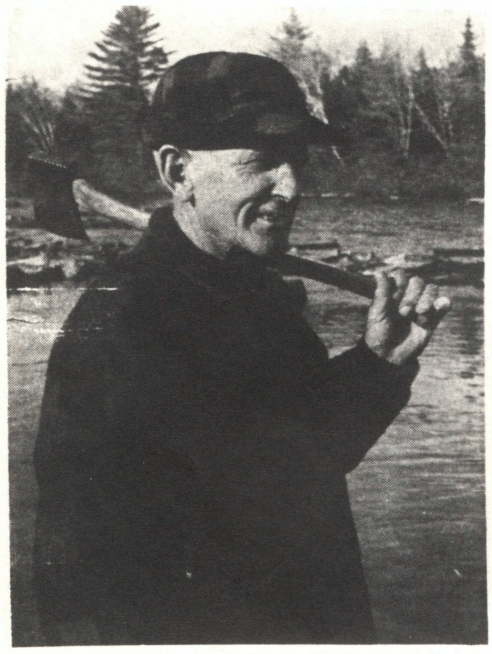
The BROWN COMPANY QUALITY Bulletin

BERLIN, GORHAM, NORTH STRATFORD, N. H.
CORVALLIS, OREGON

VOL. 8 No. 16 NOVEMBER, 1961

Burton Corkum Retires After 50 Years In Woods



AX AND RIVER—Burton L. Corkum, long-time Woods Department employee, stands in the setting most familiar to him.

Fifty years a woodsman, Burton L. Corkum of Milan retired on October 1st from Brown Company's Woods Department but he hasn't stopped working yet, and he doesn't look as though he's about to.

Mr. Corkum, who was born September 5, 1896, started working in the woods at the age of 15, hauling poplar for his uncle, A. M. Bean, a large timberland owner and operator.

His father, T. Harding Corkum, a foreman for Mr. Bean and also a logging contractor in his own right, then put Burt to work cutting long softwood logs which were driven down the Androscoggin River to the Brown Company saw mill at Berlin.

When he was 19, Burt married Josie Eastman, also of Milan, and during the next two years, he worked as a carpenter for Brown Company. He helped to build the Riverside Extension Power House (across from the St. Louis Hospital), the Cascade Time Office (now demolished), and also worked on the O. B. Brown and W. R. Brown homes which were at that time, being built in Berlin.

In the fall of 1922, Burt went to Parmachenee Lake where he scaled long logs all winter. In those days, men had to walk into Parmachenee from Lake Aziscoos, a 20-mile hike each way, and the only time Burt got out that winter was for Christmas Day.

According to Burt, logs cut at Parmachenee at that time were skidded out to the ice on the lake, scaled there, and after spring breakup, were driven down to Lake Aziscoos, towed down the lake to the dam, and driven again down the Magalloway and Androscoggin Rivers to Berlin.

Between 1923 and 1937, Burt scaled pulpwood and doubled as camp clerk in such locations as Aziscoos, Dixville, Grafton, Whitefield-Jefferson and Cupsuptic, where he also acted as paymaster. He also used to take provisions by boat from Errol to meet the steamer Diamond, then engaged in towing booms of pulpwood on Lake Umbagog, and was responsible for putting the safety boom in place and removing it. The safety boom surrounded the main boom of pulpwood, and was intended to trap the wood if the main boom should pull apart for any reason.

In 1937, Burt was made Woods Safety Director for the Company. At first he also acted as a check-scaler, but as the number of logging camps increased, safety instruction for woodsmen became a full time job for him. This involved much travelling from camp to camp, holding training and safety classes for woodsmen, and the making of safety films including the Brown Company movie "King Spruce."

During the war years, Burt also visited the P.O.W. camp at Stark weekly, giving safety and training instruction to prisoners engaged in cutting pulpwood. Most prisoners were Austrians from General Rommel's Afrika Corps, and according to Burt, many were quite happy to be prisoners and out of the war. He and other Brown Company representatives attended various fairs in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont during those years, using the Brown Company tent, exhibits and movies to stress the importance of pulpwood to the war effort.

In 1954, Burt became Assistant District Logging Superintendent and an assistant to John Bork and Larry Parsons, booming out pulpwood on Lake Aziscoos during the spring drive. He also acted as trucking superintendent at Camp 13 above Parmachenee, helped supervise road construction, and for the past 3 years has been in charge of Camps 13 and 21.

Knowing Burt would have the answer, we asked him about the double-bitted ax and why it had two blades. "The thin blade", Burt explained, "was kept very sharp and used for cutting. The other blade was thicker, not so sharp, and was used for rough work like swamping and limbing the tree after it was cut down."

"Did you ever get tired of your work?", we asked. "Never in all the years I have been in the woods. I've enjoyed every minute of it."

Another Bite For S. S.

If you earn $4,800 next year, you will work 8 full days just to pay your Social Security taxes in 1962.

Starting with the first pay check in 1962, the deduction for Social Security will increase for all company employees as the total payroll tax increases from 6% to 6¼%, on all earnings up to $4,800 per year.

Half of the increased tax is paid by the employee, through higher payroll deduction; the other half is paid by the Company.

The tax increase which becomes effective January 1, 1962 goes into effect automatically under the amended Social Security law passed in 1960. It was needed to finance increased benefits which are already being received by those who get Social Security, or who will get it in the future.

It is not the end, either. Taxes will go up again next year, from 6¼% to 7¼%; and again in 1966 (if not changed sooner) to 8¼%.

In 1968, assuming no change in the meantime, an amount equal to nearly 10% of taxable wages (up to $4,800) will be paid over by each employee and the Company for the Social Security program.

These increases are scheduled to finance benefits at the present level. They do not cover any increased benefits which Congress may vote to put in effect, in the next 6 years. If any such increases are voted, taxes would have to be raised to pay for them.

If the Medical Care program under consideration by Congress (as proposed by the Administration) is adopted, the tax rate must be increased by an additional ¼% and the tax will be imposed on all wages up to $5,200 per year. Translated into dollars, it amounts to a maximum increase of $27.50 per employee.

The following table shows the effect of the new tax schedule on employees' take-home pay. An equal amount is also paid by Brown Company.

Annual wages	1961 deduction for Social Security	1962 deduction for Social Security
$3,400	$102.00	$106.25
3,600	108.00	112.50
3,800	114.00	118.75
4,000	120.00	125.00
4,200	126.00	131.25
4,400	132.00	137.50
4,600	138.00	143.75
4,800 and up	144.00	150.00

THE SAFETY SCOREBOARD

PLANT	POSITION AS OF OCT. 31	POSITION AS OF SEPT. 30	DAYS SINCE LAST ACCIDENT*
Miscellaneous Depts.	1	1	10
Power & Steam	2	2	94
Berlin Mills Ry.	3	3	328
Kraft Mill	4	5	126
Cascade Maintenance	5	4	58
Cascade Operating	6	6	7
Bermico Operating	7	7	42
Burgess Operating	8	8	32
Onco Plant	9	10	331
Upper Plants Maint.	10	11	68
Bermico Maintenance	11	12	223
Burgess Maintenance	12	9	10
Chemical Operating	13	13	33
Riverside Mill	14	16	18
Construction Dept.	15	15	35
Wood Handling	16	14	3

* **As of October 31, 1961. Standing is determined by frequency rate of accidents, i.e. number of accidents per million man hours worked.**

No. 3 Penstock Rebuilt By Construction Crew

DRIVING A STAVE — Millwright Donald Gauthier springs the staves apart as other construction workers slide the final one between its tongue and grooved neighbors, and drive it into position against the butt plate. At the time this picture was taken, about 40' of penstock was still to be built before the job was finished.

About 600' of No. 3 penstock, one of the three which have served the Riverside Extension Power House opposite the St. Louis Hospital, has been completely rebuilt by crews from the Construction Department and is now back in service.

Work on the 1300' long penstock began on July 17, 1961 and was completed during the week ending November 11th. Crew sizes varied with the progress of the job, at times comprising 4 millwrights and 8 laborers, and at other times involving as many as 14 millwrights and 28 laborers. Millwright Leader Philip Lefevre was in direct charge of the work.

According to Chief Construction Engineer Willard Baker, the project required the complete removal of 600' of old penstock and the supporting cradles, which were in poor condition, and replacing them with new creosote dipped cradles and wood staves which make up the penstock.

With the penstock being 13' in diameter, it takes 92 individual staves to go around the penstock. Approximately 4,000 staves were required to make up the new section, each tongue and grooved lengthwise, for tight leak-proof fit and to insure the roundness of the finished penstock.

Binding the entire penstock together to resist the enormous pressure of the water inside the penstock are steel rods, set 8" apart.

Several cost-saving devices were adopted by the Construction Department in the course of the work. When the upper 400" of the penstock was demolished, all the old staves were cut in 8' lengths and floated down the river to a boom opposite the Burgess Mill. There they were removed by crane and grapnel and loaded directly into trucks which took them to the dump. When the lower 200' of penstock was being built, the Department made a gravel road down into the river itself and part way across it. A crane with a 100' boom was placed in the river on this roadway, and used to remove old material and lift the new cradles and all other construction materials from the river bank on one side, to the location of the penstock on the other. This eliminated a great amount of carrying staves and other materials from Main Street down over the penstocks, a costly and time-consuming process if done manually.

Only two lost-time injuries occurred during the 14-week construction period. One man had a cracked bone in his thumb, the other was struck on the head by a piece of falling material.

Home Study Pays Off For Ted Falardeau

STUDIES PAY OFF — Theodore A. Falardeau of Central Engineering receives check in full reimbursement for cost of I.C.S. Mechanical Engineering Course (Division 4) from Chief Engineer George Craig (left). Adding congratulations is Patrick J. Reilly, Director of Labor Relations.

Ted Falardeau, probably Brown Company's most self-educated man, has done it again.

This time he has completed Division 4 of the I.C.S. Mechanical Engineering Correspondence Course. It means that since he started his home studies more than 6 years ago, he has acquired the equivalent of a college education in mechanical engineering — without, of course, the laboratory work and related social studies. On the other hand, he has had the opportunity to put his training to work in a practical way, something most college students cannot do until after they graduate.

Not only this, Ted has for the most part been an "A" student all the time. As a result, he has had virtually 100% reimbursement for the cost of these courses from Brown Company. His contribution has been thousands of hours of time spent in studying, when he probably would rather have been fishing, hunting or engaging in some other form of recreation.

Studies pay off. Take Ted's record, for example. When he came to Brown Company in 1950, he was hired first as an ordinary laborer, and he had to leave the Company for 3 years almost immediately to serve in the United States Navy.

Ted completed Division 1 of his Mechanical Engineering Course in 1956. It involved studies in Mechanical Drawing, Engineering Mathematics and Chemistry, Electricity, Hydraulics and other courses.

At the time he was working as a trainee draftsman and junior engineering draftsman (1953-58).

Then he went immediately to work on Division 2, which included work such as advanced mechanical drawing, mechanical design, materials and their strength, and an introduction to steam and electricity. When this was finished in 1957, he started in on Division 3 of the Mechanical Engineering Course, worked on advanced power and steam, engines, turbines, piping and fuels, and boiler feedwater treatment.

Not so strangely, about this same time Ted was promoted to Assistant Millwright Foreman.

From 1959 through 1961, Ted has been working on Division 4 of the Course, and has now completed it, again as an "A" student. He has studied instruments, mechanical equipment such as lathes, shapers, milling machines, etc., foundry work and metallurgy, boiler design, refrigeration and commercial law.

It is no coincidence that in 1960, Ted was made Maintenance Engineer for the Burgess Mill, and on October 1, 1961, was transferred to the Central Engineering Department where he is currently working on engineering projects in connection with the Company's capital improvement program.

AIME PARADIS

Aime Paradis, born September 30, 1896 and a first-class millwright at Cascade since March 1941, retired November 1st with 41 years of continuous service.

Mr. Paradis is described by Manager of Maintenance Harold J. Blakney as "a first class man —one of the most cooperative millwrights we have ever had." He started working for the Company in 1919 and his job at the time was at the sawmill, sticking lumber. He became a millwright in 1929, then for a time served as a blacksmith in the Maintenance Department.

Aime went to Cascade in 1933, first as a laborer. A year later he became a millwright again. He has been engaged in paper machine maintenance there, and in the Beater Room, ever since. He was given a purse of money on retirement.

HEINE RETIREMENT — Watch Engineer Bill Ryder (left), and Boiler Operator Joseph Fortier, exchange light talk on the occasion of the latter's retirement from the Heine Boiler Plant.

Joseph O. Fortier, 306 Burgess Street, boiler operator at the Heine Boiler Plant, retired on November 1st. with 35 years of continuous service.

Mr. Fortier, who was born May 29, 1896, first came to work for the Company as an employee in the Chemical Mill. He left to serve in the Army (212 Engineers) in 1918, was discharged the spring of 1919, and returned to the Company.

Between 1919 and 1920 he held various jobs at Burgess, in the Salvage Department and Tube Mill, then left the Company for several years.

In 1925 he returned to work and has been employed at the Heine Boiler Plant continuously since 1926.

On his retirement, he was presented with a purse of money from his fellow employees at the boiler plant.

Mister Clean Ratings

PLANT	POSITION IN OCTOBER	POSITION IN SEPTEMBER	SCORE
Onco	1	1	83.0
Research	2	2	82.0
Wood Handling	2	7	82.0
Power & Steam	4	3	81.6
Berlin Mills Ry.	5	4	81.0
Kraft	6	10	80.8
Riverside	7	6	80.7
Sulphite	8	8	80.6
Chemical	8	9	80.6
Bermico	10	5	80.5
Cascade	11	5	80.0
(Maintenance Groups)			
Cascade	1	1	82.0
Bermico	2	2	80.2
Burgess	3	5	80.1
Riverside	4	2	80.0
Chemical	4	4	80.0

Tissue Machine Underway

A construction crew of 35 or more men under Foreman Henry Gaudette of Gorham are now busy at Cascade preparing the location for the new tissue machine and its stock preparation equipment.

First step in the process has been the removal of a wooden partition separating the Towel Room from the roll storage area and former sealing space behind the Towel Room. This was done some months ago.

A hole 80' long and 16' wide has been broken in the floor, and beside it another smaller hole about 40' long and 16' wide. Reinforcing steel H-beams have been welded into place to strengthen the floor itself, and the basement floor has been excavated at some points.

Under the 80' x 16' hole in the floor, construction workers have built forms where the white water chest, couch pit and wire pit will be located. In addition, other forms are being built and reinforcing steel installed for he foundation under the big Yankee dryer on the tissue machine, and for the foundation pads for the machine chest and dump chest.

Beside the tissue machine but on the basement level will be the hydropulper, the foundation for which is also being poured now.

While millwrights are building forms and doing foundation work, still more men, including welders, electricians and pipers are busy making other preparations for the machine. Their work includes relocating existing piping and wiring to make room for new pipes and wires connected with the tissue machine and installing the ductwork under the ceiling for the machine's ventilating system.

Get O.K. Before Signing For I.C.S.

Employees who may be interested in taking I.C.S. or other correspondence courses which may, if successfully completed, lead to better job opportunities should contact David J. Marquis in the Labor Relations Department.

The Company will reimburse employees for part or all of the cost of the course taken, but only if it is an approved course which has some relation to the employee's present work or work to which he might be assigned at some future date. Mr. Marquis has complete lists of available courses, and their description.

PATRICK GIONET

Patrick Gionet, 179 Bridge Street, is an employee with a unique record. He has spent his entire working career in one department, Paper Shipping at Cascade.

Mr. Gionet is now retired — as of October 1st — with 39 years of continuous service to his credit. He came to work at the Company on August 16, 1922, entered the Finishing Department as it was then called, and started on the rewinders. In 1925, he operated a truck in the Department and for over 20 years, was engaged in this type of work. He became a stenciller in 1956, work which he continued with until his retirement this year.

Mr. Gionet is the father of Gerard Gionet, who was recently elected President of Local 75. He was presented with a gift of money from fellow employees at the time of his retirement.