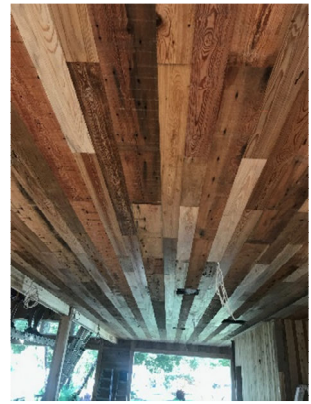


A Bit About Me...and Giving Back

- Al E. Bavry, Advisor, Kimal Lumber



O.K. I've "only" been involved in this great industry we're in for about sixty years! Gone from where plain old Southern Yellow Pine was the product of choice...Where incidentally I'd often tell builders, "It always comes with a guarantee!" with that being... "I guarantee this Yellow Pine will be strong!" And, "I guarantee it will be crooked!" I never let them down with my promises...

So, today, the landscape has much changed. And to the pine products: Through several generations of plantation pine forests, better sawmill practices, better drying, grading etc...Yellow Pine ain't too bad. In fact, Weyerhaeuser's "Framer" series is guaranteed straight! And today, we still plant far more fiber (trees) than the fiber (wood products) we turn into usable products. Yup! When I started sixty years ago, the "Wood" industry wasn't going toward a slow death, but rather, after sixty years the future is brighter than ever. One of the most amazing phenomena to occur recently is the advent of tall (very tall) wood buildings...Eventually some will likely rival concrete high-rises. Stay tuned for much more "good wood" to come.

So, as to me...Most of you wouldn't know this, but Ann and I bought a house built in 1964 that we've been working on, and will move into soon. But a close-to-completion neat feature will be an almost two-thousand-foot garage. It started out to be what I called a "Car/Wood garage-museum." Funny how original thoughts-ideas can change once you get started...Originally it was going to have two lifts...So on the one side I could park two cars on these lifts, two underneath on the floor. Now I've decided the lifts won't be there. Instead I'll have a maximum of four cars... (Many would say, "That's three too many! LOL.) Because the way this "Wood Museum" part of the garage is evolving, it's taken up more of the garage space as a true "Celebration of Wood." All the framing is Framer Series SYP...and Yup...The walls, including the twenty foot "tall wall," are straight as an arrow! And the ceilings and walls are paneled with a wide blend of Cypress and Pine. Much of it has run to paneling, out of sinker logs...Some of those logs up to three thousand years old!! There's also some Long Leaf Southern Yellow Pine recovered from fallen trees in some well managed plantation forests...and...Drum Roll!!! Not a piece of drywall in the entire structure.

So, I'm planning on "giving back." Starting next year, I'll reach out to some schools. I can see telling a wood story to young students and telling positive things about our industry and what we do so well as a living. The "Wood Museum" garage can tell many stories about the Green side of recovery Sinker Pine and Cypress...just one example. So, for the coming future (which is sneaking up pretty fast), I'm going to be "giving back" in a way that I feel will be meaningful to young folks that are eager to learn. And of course it can also be a place to meet builders, architects, potential customers of wood, etc...A whole new horizon unfolding.

Stay tuned...To start, I'll offer an open invitation to all that read this to "come visit me sometime." For my next twenty years (As Willie Nelson famously said, "Still standing upright on the ground!!"), I aim "to give a lot back." It won't be long before the Car/Wood garage-museum is finished, a somewhat unusual recycled wood learning center...So until then...with the continuing story...