

Pictured above and below is the first Board of Directors of the Frost-Johnson Lumber Company, which was later changed to the Frost Lumber Industries, Inc. Top row, reading from left to right: E. A. Frost, C. D. Johnson, C. W. Mansur, E. W. Frost, C. W. Nelson, A. J. Peavy, N. W. McLeod.

# The History of Frost Lumber Industries

Adapted from material prepared by A. J. Molt

Frost-Trigg Lumber Company may be said to have been the seed from which the Forest Products Division of Olin Industries grew. It was incorporated under the laws of Missouri on February 18, 1897, to take the place of two other small companies in which the organizers had been interested—the R. L. Trigg Lumber Co. of St. Louis, Missouri, and the E. W. Frost Lumber Company of Texarkana, Arkansas. Its incorporators and initial officers were E. W. Frost, President, R. L. Trigg, Vice President, J. M. Park, Secretary-Treasurer, H. J. Allen, C. D. Johnson, J. P. Towery, Milton Winham, E. A. Frost and N. P. Sanderson. The purpose of the new corporation was to provide a sales outlet for a number of sawmills in which these men and their associates were interested. An office was opened in St. Louis and C. D. Johnson was placed in charge as sales manager.

Among the men who organized Frost-Trigg Lumber Company, those whose enterprise and energies were perhaps most influential in the future development of the organization were E. W. Frost, E. A. Frost, and C. D. Johnson, although others who contributed much came into the organization later.

During 1901 and 1902 a number of choice tracts of pine timber of considerable acreage came to the attention of the Frost group. In order to acquire these and other available holdings, the Union Saw Mill Company was incorporated in Arkansas on August 11, 1902. A complete saw mill plant was built and a townsite laid out at Huttig, Arkansas, and the mill went into operation in 1904.

The following year the Louisiana & Pine Bluff Railway Company was incorporated in Arkansas for the purpose of building a railroad to connect Huttig with the Missouri Pacific at Dollar Junction, Arkansas, and to reach the Company's lands beyond. This corporation continues to be a wholly-owned subsidiary. The Huttig land and timber holdings have been continuously augmented since the inception of the Company, and today aggregate approximately 250,000 acres under sustained yield management.

Prior to 1905 Messrs. E. W. and

E. A. Frost had acquired a sufficient acreage of timber lands in DeSoto Parish, Louisiana, to warrant building a sawmill for its conversion. They accordingly organized the DeSoto Land & Lumber Company on January 1, 1905, and built their plant at what is now South Mansfield. At the time of its organization the DeSoto Land & Lumber Company acquired all of the capital stock of The Mansfield Railway & Transportation Company. The mill at South Mansfield is still in operation and the Mansfield Railway & Transportation Company continues as a wholly-owned subsidiary in the Frost setup.

The Black Lake Lumber Company at Campti, Louisiana, was organized as a Louisiana corporation on March 12, 1906, by E. A. Frost and his associates. A large tract of pine timber in Natchitoches Parish had been acquired under a timber cutting contract, and a mill for its manufacture was erected at Campti, Louisiana. This operation came to an end in 1933, when all the timber had been cut.

Another mill was added to the organization in 1907, when the Star & Crescent Lumber Company was organized to acquire the plant and some fifty thousand acres of timber land of the Montrose Lumber Company at Montrose, Louisiana. Operations were carried on at this point until the plant was destroyed by fire on August 8, 1942, up to which time all but a small part of the original stand of virgin timber had been cut.

The Frost-Johnson Lumber Company, the direct parent company of the present Forest Products Division, was organized in 1907 to develop southeast Louisiana timberlands, which were, however, sold shortly afterwards.

Meanwhile, Frost-Johnson Lumber Company served as the corporate vehicle for carrying forward another development. In order to bring about more convenient and efficient management through unified control, a merger of the existing properties was carried into effect in 1908. The companies included in the merger, with their subsidiaries, were as follows:

Frost-Trigg Lumber Co.,

Dixie Lumber Co.,  
Whited & Wheless, Ltd.,  
DeSoto Land and Lumber Co.,  
Black Lake Lumber Co.,  
Star & Crescent Lumber Co.,  
Union Saw Mill Co.

At the same time the following officers were elected:

E. A. Frost, President  
C. D. Johnson,  
First Vice President  
F. T. Whited, Vice President  
G. S. Prestridge, Vice President  
A. J. Peavy, Vice President  
H. H. Wheless,  
Secretary and Treasurer

of the O'Neil-Wiles Lumber Company of St. Louis. The next year Shreveport Long Leaf Lumber Company was organized. In 1920 Slagle-Johnson Lumber Company of Monroe, La., was created as the third step in the retail field.

In the early months of 1920 it was publicly announced that the Arkansas & Louisiana Midland Railway Company, operating a line of railway from Monroe, Louisiana, to Crossett, Arkansas, with a branch to Hamburg, Arkansas, had gone into receivership. A bid was filed on behalf of the Frost

19, 1942, to Frost Hardwood Floors, Inc.

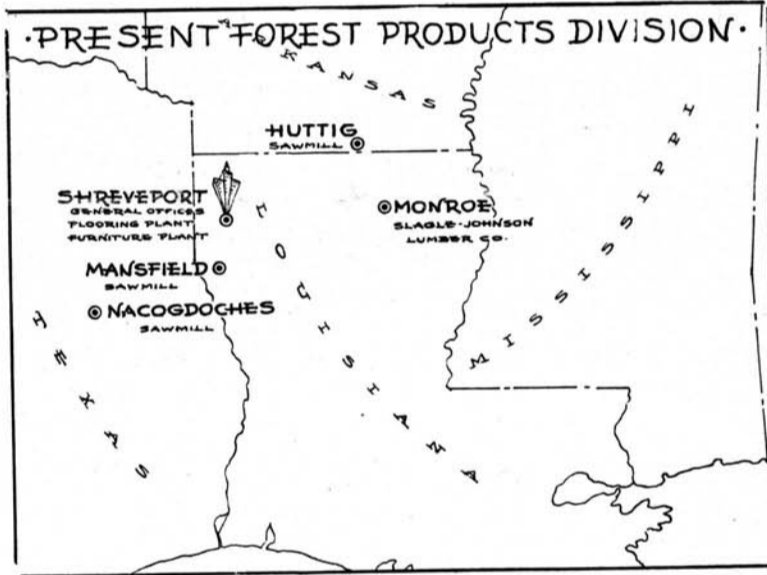
With the Peavy and Moore interests of Shreveport, who had previously acquired about 45,000 acres of timber lands in Jasper and adjacent counties in Texas, Frost joined in the organization of the Jasper County Lumber Company. It operated a complete saw mill plant at the town of Jasper in that State, producing both pine and hardwood, which was marketed by Frost. After twenty-three years of operation it was decided to sell the property.

Approximately 47,000 acres of land and timber together with the plant of the Waterman Lumber Company at Waskom, Texas, were purchased in 1928 and were made a unit of Frost Lumber Industries, Inc., of Texas. This operation, as well as that at Nacogdoches, Texas, was under the able management and supervision of the late H. W. Whited from the time of acquisition until his death in 1946. Owing to the utilization of timber of saw-log size at a more rapid rate than is being provided by re-growth, operations at Waskom have had to be suspended.

Frostbrand Furniture Manufacturing Company, incorporated in Louisiana in 1933, operates a furniture factory at Shreveport. It manufactures porch and outdoor furniture of all kinds made of wood. The company itself markets its products.

The addition of a line of forest products treated with Wolman Salts, creosote and other wood preservatives was made possible when the company entered into a contract with the American Lumber & Treating Company of Chicago in 1935, under which that company erected a treating plant on land leased to it by Frost. Frost has thus been able to supply its trade with treated lumber, ties, poles, posts and piling.

In January, 1952, Frost Lumber was merged with Olin Industries, Inc., and became Forest Products Division of the latter company. Late in 1952, Olin completely absorbed Frost Hardwood Floors and Frostbrand Furniture Company. Conversely, Shreveport Long Leaf Lumber Company is now completely dissociated from Olin.



The name of the Frost-Johnson Lumber Co. was changed to Frost Lumber Industries, Incorporated, on June 3, 1925.

Prior to the merger the Company had no production in the State of Texas, where a considerable market for lumber was developing. Accordingly, the need was supplied by the purchase in 1910 of the timber lands and complete saw mill plant of the Hayward Lumber Company at Nacogdoches, Texas, together with its subsidiary, The Nacogdoches & Southeastern Railroad Company. The plant and railroad are still in operation.

In 1918 the company entered the retail field with the organization of the Wiles-Chipman Lumber Company, which took over the long-established business

interests which, because it contemplated operating the road as a going concern rather than scrapping it, was successful. Accordingly, the Arkansas & Louisiana Missouri Railway Company was chartered in Louisiana on July 31, 1920. Local citizens and businesses were invited to take stock in the new corporation, but Frost retained the controlling interest.

With the double purpose of increasing its line of products and at the same time providing a profitable use for the lower grades of oak developed in the producing of hardwood lumber, the management decided in 1922 to engage in the manufacture of oak flooring. Incorporation of the Perfection Oak Flooring Company under Louisiana law followed on March 4, 1922. The name of the corporation was changed on January

Bottom row, left to right: George Lock, G. S. Prestridge, H. H. Wheless, R. T. Moore, F. W. Scott, and F. T. Whited, Sr. Only Moore and Scott still survive. Moore is a member of Olin Industries' Board of Directors.

