Land Family Photographs and Records MSS.319

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Abstract: The collection contains the photographs and business records of Feather River Pine Mills and the Land family, including, correspondence, financial statements, reports, and legal documents. The majority of the collection consists of photographs and negatives documenting mill construction and logging operations of Feather River Pine Mills (FRPM), including Feather River Railroad, and the National Wood Treating Corporation. The Land family was heavily involved in the business and operations of FRPM.

Biographical/Historical note
A. H. Land was born November 24, 1866 in Concord, Virginia and died in Oroville, California on July 26, 1953. Land graduated as a captain from the Virginia Military Institute in 1890 and taught chemistry in the science department for several years. He was married in 1893 to Catherine Elizabeth Evans and entered the mercantile business in Bluefield, West Virginia. Holding interest in mining and lumber at various times throughout his life, Land became president of the First National Bank of Logan, West Virginia, and served as an assistant federal fuel officer during World War I. He served several terms as mayor of Bluefield, West Virginia and was the manager of the opera house. Mr. and Mrs. Land had seven children, including Charles Hunter Land, John Daniel Land, and Jacob Golden Land, all of whom were involved in Feather River Pine Mills business.

Feather River Pine Mills, Inc. was a major Northern California lumber company for a number of years. In 1920 the Hutchinson Lumber Company (a West Virginia hardwood lumber company established in 1908 by Robert Lee Hutchinson), bought the Wheeler timber tract northeast of Oroville. The company purchased large tracts of timber in Butte and Plumas counties in California and began building railroad lines, sawmills a planning mill and dry kilns. An office and plant were officially operational in Oroville in March 1922. Hutchinson Lumber Company was one of the largest lumber companies in Northern California (during its 1925 season the company cut 100,000,000 board feet of lumber).

A. H. Land served as vice-president and treasurer at the West Virginia Corporation (Hutchinson Lumber of West Virginia) for two years (February 1922-February 1924). Land moved to Oroville in 1922 to help improve the financial situation of the company. In 1923 at A. H. Land’s suggestion, the California operations of Hutchinson Lumber Company was reorganized and incorporated as the Hutchinson Lumber Company of California. Land became the president and treasurer of the California Corporation and from that point on he was completely in charge of the operation of the lumber mill and other properties of Hutchinson Lumber of California. C. H. land, A. H. Land’s son, was given the responsibility of managing all operations and sales for Hutchinson Lumber of California.

Financial trouble continued for Hutchinson Lumber Company and on the morning of April 22, 1927 the real and personal property of the Hutchinson Lumber Company was offered for sale on the steps of the Butte County Courthouse in Oroville, California. A. H. Land submitted the only bid and purchased Hutchinson Lumber on behalf of himself and a group of associates for $1,960,063.13. Land and his partners formed a new firm in the space of a month, and incorporated it in Nevada under the name of Feather River Pine Mills (FRPM).

In October 1927, the mill in Oroville was completely destroyed by fire. A. H. Land began to negotiate a Federal Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC) loan that was approved in February of 1938, providing $385,000 for the construction of a new mill. The Adelaide site on the outskirts of Oroville was abandoned, and the company decided to locate its operations near the town of Feather Falls. Construction work on the mill and town site soon began, and the rehabilitation of the railroad followed beginning in 1929. The new plant and railroad project were completed and ready for
operation on July 1, 1940. Mr. Land organized National Wood Treating Company as a subsidiary in 1947. The plant was located in South Oroville. Feather River Pine Mills continued operations until 1955 when the Land and Cooper families sold the company to Georgia-Pacific Corporation.

Access Restrictions
Collection is open for research without restriction.

Usage Restrictions
No restrictions.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note
Land Family

Publication Rights
The library can only claim physical ownership of the collection. Users are responsible for satisfying any claimants of literary property.

Preferred Citation note
Land Family Photographs and Records, MSS 319, Special Collections, Meriam Library, California State University, Chico.

Related Archival Materials note
Feather River Pine Mills Records, MSS 191, Special Collections, Meriam Library, California State University, Chico.

Scope and Contents note
The collection contains the photographs and business records of Feather River Pine Mills and the Land family, including correspondence, auditor's reports, appraisal reports, examination reports, inventory, balance sheets, agreements, schedules, financial statements, income tax, employment record, proof of labor certificates, grant deed, deed of easement, newspaper clippings and a Leavers Official Footage Estimator booklet. The majority of the collection consists of photographs and negatives documenting mill construction and logging operations of Feather River Pine Mills (FRPM), including Feather River Railroad, and the National Wood Treating Corporation. The Land family was heavily involved in the business and operations of FRPM. A few of the photographs are personal and depict the Land family.


Processing Information note
Processing of the Land Family Photographs and Records was generously funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and administered by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR). The [ABC repository] was awarded a Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives grant from 2010-2012, "Uncovering California's Environmental Collections," in collaboration with eight additional special collections and archival repositories throughout the state and the California Digital Library (CDL). Grant objectives included processing of over 33 hidden collections related to the state's environment and environmental history. The collections document an array of important sub-topics such as irrigation, mining, forestry, agriculture, industry, land use, activism, and research. Together they form a multifaceted picture of the natural world and the way it was probed, altered, exploited and protected in California over the twentieth century. Finding aids are made available through the Online Archive of California (OAC).

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Feather River Pine Mills.
Feather River Railway.
Hutchinson Lumber Company.
Land Family
Land, Andrew Hunter
Land, Charles Hunter
Land, Jack
Land, Jacob Golden
Land, John Daniel
Butte County (Calif.)--Photographs.
Feather Falls (Calif.)--Photographs.
Logging--California, Northern--History.
Lumber and lumbering--California, Northern--History.
Lumber and lumbering--California--Butte County--History.
Lumber camps--California--Butte County--Photographs.
Lumbering--California, Northern--Photographs.
Moore Town (Calif.)--Photographs.

Uncovering California's Environmental Collections Project

Box 1  
**Papers/Reports**

Physical Description: (5 Folders)

**Folder 1:** Gates Hardware Store (Correspondence, Bill of Sale, Proposals). 1928
**Folder 2:** Nash Motor Company, Owned by Jack Land (Account Journal). 1928-1929
**Folder 3:** Spencer Candy Company, Owned by J. D. Land and Harry Oates (Balance Sheet, Preamble, Agreement, Schedules, Statements, and Financial Receipts). 1935-36
**Folder 4:** Income Tax and Employment Record, John Daniel Land. 1934-1936
**Folder 5:** Correspondence, Proof of Labor Certificates (recorded in Butte County), Logging Shipment/Prices, Land Business Card, 1941 Penta Treatment Added at Oroville Brochure (National Wood Treating Corporation), Hutchinson Lumber Company Opening Day Ceremonies Pamphlet, Newspaper (The Union, February 16, 1984), Newspaper Clippings, Deputy Sheriff Card, Correspondence to Mrs. J. Golden Land from J. K. Phillips A. S.

Box 2  
**Papers/Reports**

Physical Description: (8 Folders)

**Folder 1:** Property List, with Names and Descriptions (Note: the records in Folders 1, 3, and 4 may be related)
**Folder 2:** Certificate of Title, Report, Appropriation of Water and Water Rights on Sucker Run, Butte County, State of California. March 30, 1932
**Folder 3:** Agreements (Contents from Water Ditch Envelope). 1934-1935
**Folder 4:** Deed of Easement, Grant Deed, Notes, and Correspondence. 1936
**Folder 5:** Leavers Official Feetage Estimator by J. M. Leaver (Fractional size lumber, Cut Stock, Boxes, Millwork, Furniture, Finish, Veneers, Refrigerators, Specialties, etc.)
**Folder 6:** Feather River Pine Mills, Auditor's Report July 31, 1927
**Folder 7:** Feather River Pine Mills, Appraisal Report, Mill Property July 12, 1934, and Woods Property July 12, 1934.
**Folder 8:** Gates Hardware Store, Inventory.

Box 3  
**Reports**

Physical Description: (19 Folders-arranged alphabetically by company name)

**Folder 1:** Feather River Pine Mills, Appraisal Report, Valuation of Re-Conditioned Mill Machinery and Equipment, October 8, 1927.
**Folder 3:** Geo B. Mallory Company, Audit Report, December 31, 1948.
**Folder 4:** Monarch Lumber Company (Denver Branch) Financial Statement, 1947-1948.
Folder 11: Monarch Lumber Company #1, Financial Statements, February 28, 1957
Folder 17: South River Timber Company, Final Statements, December 31, 1951.

Box 4
Photographs

Physical Description: (10 Folders of Feather River Pine Mills, Logging and Mill Operations photographs)

Folder 1: Hutchinson Lumber Company Railroad Photographs, March 18, 1922
Physical Description: (2 photographs)

Folder 2: Feather River Railway and Standing Timber on South Fork of Feather River
Physical Description: (12 color photo slides)

Folder 3: Feather River Pine Mills, Logging and Mill Operations,
Physical Description: (31 black and white photographs)

Folder 4: National Treating Corporation, August 20, 1951
Physical Description: (11 black and white photos of a fair display)

Folder 5: Feather River Pine Mills, Logging and Mill Operations, including National Treating Corporation
Physical Description: (31 black and white and 1 color photographs)

Folder 6: Feather River Pine Mills, Logging and Mill Operations, including National Treating Corporation
Physical Description: (70 black and white photographs)

Folder 7: Feather River Pine Mills, Logging and Mill Operations, including National Treating Corporation
Physical Description: (57 black and white photographs)

Folder 8: Feather River Pine Mills, Logging and Mill Operations, including National Treating Corporation
Physical Description: (55 black and white photographs)
Photographs

Folder 9: Aerial Photos (Berkeley and San Francisco)
Folder 10: Personal Photos (possibly Land family members, and CAL Berkeley stadium)

Box 5

Photographs
Physical Description: (10 Folders of Feather River Pine Mills, Logging and Mill Operations photographs)

Folder 1: Feather River Pine Mills, Logging and Mill Operations
Physical Description: (42 black and white photographs)

Folder 2: Feather River Pine Mills, Logging and Mill Operations, including lumber yard
Physical Description: (78 black and white photographs)

Folder 3: Feather River Pine Mills, Logging and Mill Operations, including Feather River Railroad Company
Physical Description: (54 black and white photographs)

Folder 4: Feather River Pine Mills, Sawmill Construction
Physical Description: (37 black and white photographs)

Folder 5: Feather River Pine Mills, Logging and Mill Operations
Physical Description: (75 black and white photographs)

Folder 6: Feather River Pine Mills, Logging and Mill Operations, including National Treating Corporation and Mill Construction.
Physical Description: (91 black and white photographs)

Folder 7: Feather River Pine Mills, Logging and Mill Operations, including National Treating Corporation
Physical Description: (51 black and white photographs)

Folder 8: Trip through Middle Fork of Feather River
Physical Description: (46 sepia tone photographs)

Folder 9: Feather Falls, Oroville, CA (14 black and white photographs) and Personal Photographs, possibly Land family members, including one of Jacob Golden Land and Frank Lisbon, surveyor for FRPM (19 black and white photographs)
Folder 10: 1987 Feather Falls Trip by Bob Everete
Physical Description: (36 color photographs)

oversize-box 6

Oversize Photographs

Feather River Pine Mills, Logging and Mill Operations, 19 Oversize Black and White Photographs (2 photographs have been hand-colored, 1 has been matted, and 13 have accompanying descriptions)

Box 7

Photograph Negatives (7-1 to 7-245)

7-1 to 7-45: Feather River Pine Mills, Sawmill Construction, late 1930’s, Feather Falls.
Physical Description: (45 negatives)

7-46 to 7-111: Feather River Pine Mills, Logging Operations
Physical Description: (66 negatives)
Photograph Negatives (7-1 to 7-245)

7-112 to 7-168: Feather River Pine Mills, Trucks
  Physical Description: (53 negatives)

7-169 to 7-205: Feather River Pine Mills, Railroad
  Physical Description: (34 negatives)

7-206 to 7-221: Feather River Railway Company
  Physical Description: (16 negatives)

7-222 to 7-245: Feather River Pine Mills, Bidwell Bar Remanufacturing Plant (8 negatives) Aerial Views of Oroville and Mill (5 negatives)

Box 8

Phoeto Negative (8-1 to 8-256)

8-1 to 8-127: Feather River Pine Mills, Mill Operations
  Physical Description: (128 negatives)

8-128 to 8-173: Feather River Pine Mills, National Wood Treating Corporation
  Physical Description: (46 negatives)

8-174 to 8-198: Feather River Pine Mills, Standing Timber
  Physical Description: (25 negatives)

8-199 to 8-215: Feather Falls Waterfall
  Physical Description: (18 negatives)

8-216 to 8-258: Personal Photos, Land Family, Feather Falls Town, and Other
  Physical Description: (41 negatives)

Box 9

Photographs (All photographs correspond to negatives in Boxes 7 and 8)

7-1 to 7-45: Feather River Pine Mills, Sawmill Construction, late 1930’s, Feather Falls.
  Physical Description: (37 prints)

7-46 to 7-111: Feather River Pine Mills, Logging Operations
  Physical Description: (42 prints)

7-112 to 7-168: Feather River Pine Mills, Trucks
  Physical Description: (42 prints)

7-169 to 7-205: Feather River Pine Mills, Railroad
  Physical Description: (28 prints)

7-206 to 7-221: Feather River Railway Company
  Physical Description: (13 prints)

7-222 to 7-245: Feather River Pine Mills, Bidwell Bar Remanufacturing Plant (7 prints) Aerial Views of Oroville and Mill (5 prints)

8-1 to 8-127: Feather River Pine Mills, Mill Operations
  Physical Description: (117 prints)

8-128 to 8-173: Feather River Pine Mills, National Wood Treating Corporation
  Physical Description: (37 prints)
Photographs (All photographs correspond to negatives in Boxes 7 and 8)

8-174 to 8-198: Feather River Pine Mills, Standing Timber
  Physical Description: (6 prints)

8-199 to 8-215: Feather Falls Waterfall
  Physical Description: (10 prints)

8-216 to 8-258: Personal Photos, Land Family, Feather Falls Town, and Other
  Physical Description: (27 prints)

Drawer Oversize MSS