

## STODDARD SAWMILL HISTORY

When you feel the need for exercise, lie down immediately and rest until the feeling passes. That attitude has produced some of the great inventions, made writers of the classics, starved artists and caused listless beachcombers to liven up enough to dream.

It has small place, though, in sawmilling where brain and muscle rule. Ask the fifth generation of the Stoddard Family, now operating in the woods and mill on the Targhee National Forest and in St. Anthony, Idaho.

In 1879, David K. Stoddard moved his mill from Logan Canyon, Utah, to Beaver Canyon, Idaho. The setting, now overgrown, was pointed out by L.L. Richwine, Spencer District Ranger, who used a four-legged power wagon to scale mountains and cross dells where subsequent settings were made. Debris at each include the old hand made wooden dowels and square nails.

The Logan Canyon man's son, Thomas W. Stoddard, then 14, began work in the woods in 1880. Four years later young Stoddard was joined by his brother Sam, 12. During the next 23 years of logging and milling in Beaver Canyon, the mill was moved 26 times. Logging and hauling was done by oxen and horses.

Since it was feasible to log only 1½ miles under horse power, it was necessary to move the mill several times before the cut in each canyon was completed. Four sets were necessary to complete the cut, for example, in Stoddard Creek, then known as Van Noy Canyon. The Stoddards operated in every canyon on the west side from Idaho Hollow south. In addition, seven sets were cut in the headwaters of West Camas Creek.

In 1902, the mill was moved to the main Camas north of Button Butte. Operations continued there for seven years. That is where my father is logging at the present time.

The Stoddards did not use a clear cut operation, which is cutting every tree on their designated land. They used and still are using a selective cut. This cut is designed to take out only the older and most mature trees and leave the small ones to further develop. The trees are marked as to which ones are to be cut and which are to be left.