Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen:

I should like at this time to give a brief resume' of the organization and the activities of the Redwood Seasoning Committee. Prior to the formation of this Committee, the seasoning of redwood including kiln and yard drying, left much to be desired. So little was known about the wood itself. What was the proper technique involved that would eliminate the defects that occurred in drying? What was the proper way to lay out a yard for more uniform drying? The operators felt that if they could get together and discuss these difficulties a program of research work could be worked out, whereby the operators, working together could solve a lot of these problems.

Through the efforts of Mr. Kenneth Smith of the California Redwood Association the Redwood Seasoning Committee was organized in October 1943. As all the studies and research work were to take in all phases of the seasoning of redwood, it was decided to call this group "The Redwood Seasoning Committee" rather than a dry kiln club. It was also decided to take in as members all those directly interested in the seasoning and handling of dry redwood.

The Committee has attempted to learn what it can concerning the structure of redwood and those qualities which are affected under different seasoning conditions.

Professor Fritz of the University of California has been a great help to the Committee in this regard. He has been before the group several times giving talks on this subject.

In the beginning the operators did a great deal of research work themselves, but found they did not have a suitable kiln or the time to give to this class of work.

The operators felt the need of an experimental kiln with a competent research engineer in charge. Late in 1945 the California Redwood Association approved such a kiln and it was completed in December 1946 with Mr. B. C. Manson in charge. This pilot kiln was placed under the supervision of the Redwood Seasoning Committee. Mr. Douglas Clayton was later employed to help Mr. Manson compile all the data obtained in this research work. For Mr. Manson's guidance, a program outlining the different tests to be made was laid out by the Committee. Several hundred test runs were made through this pilot kiln before it was dismantled in late 1948.

After each test run was completed a report was turned into the Seasoning Committee at their next regular meeting. Here the report was analyzed and discussed by the members. Each member received a copy of this report to be filed away in his folder. A final summary of results obtained in this research work was made by Mr. Manson and Mr. Clayton and published in booklet form by the California Redwood Association. This booklet was published...
primarily for the guidance of anyone interested with the drying of redwood. Within this booklet will be found the proper schedules to be used for the different classifications of redwood, the final conditioning treatments to be used, recommended segregation of green lumber into proper groups based on the drying characteristics of the different boards, yard lay-outs for air seasoning, and other subjects that have a direct bearing on the drying of redwood.

This Committee is primarily a research group. Any problems brought before the meetings are analyzed and discussed. If decided that research work is needed, the problem is given to those mills best equipped to handle the work. At subsequent meetings, reports, graphs, and samples of their work are brought in for discussion.

As an illustration of some of the work this Committee has done we will take the subject of vertical grain versus flat grain sawing. After lengthy discussions, pro and con, the Committee gave figures to their management, citing the advantage of sawing vertical both from an economical standpoint and the lessening of degrade in seasoning. Proper yard lay-out was another subject taken up by the Committee. Several mills are laying out their yards in various ways and the seasoning results are being carefully tabulated. From these tests it is hoped that a uniform procedure of yard lay-outs can be adopted by all the Redwood mills. However, this subject will be covered more fully by other speakers on this panel. These are just a sample of the many things that have been accomplished.

Management has thought well of the work done by this group. It has accepted practically all of the recommendations which have been made so far.

Our membership has grown with the advent of new mills, from fourteen original members to as many as fifty at some of our meetings.

The work accomplished by this Committee since its inception has resulted in not only a better knowledge of the proper seasoning of redwood, but a closer cooperation between the operators themselves.

Thank you.