

CAMAS THEN AND NOW

The Mill's Progressive Influence in Camas

The mill has been a central part of the everyday life of Camas since its start in 1884, and has done much more for Camas than just produce paper. It has provided jobs, fostered a sense of community, and promoted businesses in the area. It has also been a leader in promoting the importance of research and education.

In the late 1930's and 40's, the mill shifted from the main focus on paper production to a stronger focus on research and development. This would create projects with longer range benefits, and in 1946 the Central Research and Technical Development group was formed. By 1955 a large modern research lab was built. In 1960, the research group was called Central Research Division and dealt with developing better quality products, new products, better utilization of raw materials and useful chemical byproducts from raw materials. The mill attracted the top minds in the fields of chemistry and engineering and continued to role-model for the community the importance of innovation and education.

The paper school was started in 1932 and provided an education for all employees who were instructed to learn a thorough knowledge of the phases of pulp and paper making. This system was successful and recognized by the Washington University System.

The Crown Zellerbach scholarship program was started in 1953, again showing the community their commitment to education.