

ANDERSON—THE CITY BUILT UPON LUMBER

Reposing in the northern reaches of the Sacramento Valley where the broad green expanse of river land makes a final stand before being absorbed into the narrow confines of the mountains lies the city of Anderson. Anderson started as a railroad town. The twin bands of steel which bisect the town into east and west are the most conspicuous feature of the place. The year of the town's founding, 1872, bears mute testimony to the influence of the "iron horse," for this was the year in which Colis P. Huntington and his Central Pacific cohorts blasted their way north on the line to Oregon.

To place the city in correct historical perspective it should be said that there have been three main periods in Anderson's history. The first encompasses the last three decades of the nineteenth century. This was the grass roots era, when Anderson grew from a few sprawling buildings interspersed by large manzanita patches to a fairly active community. The second period was the longest, but yet the most lethargic—a hibernation lasting from the turn of the century to the end of World War II. With the relaxation of the lumber industry and the development of agriculture, Anderson became a sort of country hamlet, characterized by that regard for the status quo peculiar to rural life. The response to industrialism took place from the mid-forties to the present. Business, industry, incorporation, subdivision, among others, have become important words in Anderson's vocabulary. Lethargy has been replaced by activity, tranquility by tempo; and provinciality by increased awareness. This is the outline; now for the story.

The chronicle of the community of Anderson began with the man whose name it bears—Elias Anderson. This Kentucky-born pioneer first arrived in California in 1850. He liked what he saw and in 1853 brought his wife and five children west. In 1854 Anderson kept a hotel in Marysville, and the following year was proprietor of the Prairie House between Red Bluff and Cottonwood.

In 1856 Mr. Anderson purchased the American Ranch of 160 acres located south of Anderson Creek from Thomas A. Freeman. This tract of land had been one of the first sold from the original Reading grant. Freeman bought it in May, 1854, from Major Reading and built some adobe buildings on his property. The American Ranch Post Office was established in 1855 with Freeman as Postmaster. It was the fifth postal station in Shasta County.

After Anderson acquired the ranch, he built a two story hotel. This "American Hotel" became a popular stopping place on the road between Shasta City, the Trinity mines and points south. Notable early visitors included Governor William Irvin, Leland Stanford, Mark Hopkins and John Bidwell. Anderson's daughter, Mrs. A. M. Whipple, later reported that seventy to eighty teamsters often stayed at the hotel in a single night.

In 1872 Elias Anderson deeded a right-of-way through his property to the Central Pacific Railroad. To return the favor, the railroad company named the station, which they built north of the American Ranch, Anderson. This town was plotted by J. B. Haggin and Edward Frisbie, who had purchased a large part of the Reading Grant. The original town was divided into twelve lots.

A lucid description of the village presented in a letter to the editor of the *Shasta Courier* on November 7, 1874, emphasized Anderson's rustic setting. The unknown correspondent declared:

The growing importance of our new town of Anderson prompts me to offer your readers a description of its improvements and prospects. Nearly two years ago I paid my first visit to this spot, finding it overspread by thickets of manzanita and scrub oak and showing but small indication of becoming an important village. At that time the only recent structure in the vicinity of the townsite was the store of Bedford and Wright located on North Street at the railroad crossing, 300 yards north of the depot. By cutting away quite an extensive thicket a view of the depot and the American Ranch, the residence of Mr. Elias Anderson, could be obtained from the store which otherwise stood in an apparent wilderness. At that time the building was quite small and the stock of goods about such as is found in most country stores. Many persons prophesied a failure on the part of these venturesome gentlemen and but few gave them credit for the farsighted calculation which such a brief period of time has proven correct. Today finds the moderate storehouse enlarged to more than twice its original dimensions . . . About a month ago Mr. Eggleston, the agent for the grant (Reading Grant), received instructions from

Mr. Haggin to commence the sale of town lots here. Almost immediately six or eight lots were sold and as many buildings commenced. We have now a corral and sheds complete for the accommodation of travelers and teamsters, a blacksmith shop where all manner of repairing is promptly attended to and a fine saloon furnished in a neat and attractive manner. Opposite the depot, Mr. Snow is building a hotel for the accommodation of passengers and others, which will be recognized by the traveling public as a blessing to them.

On the east boundary of the town the trustees are building a fine schoolhouse, a much needed improvement. . . . The tax being levied by this district for building purposes, being proven too insufficient to finish the school room properly, it is proposed that a ball be given by the young people of the neighborhood to supply the necessary amount to pay for its completion. Besides the buildings already named, Mr. Senden proposed to erect a wagon shop and a number of private residences are to be constructed immediately, which, altogether, will make for us quite a respectable little town.

In 1878 the post office was moved from the American Ranch to Anderson and renamed accordingly. In the same year Elias Anderson, who had purchased one of the twelve lots, moved his hotel into the new town. He renamed it "The American Ranch" hotel. This building was advertised as a "commodious hotel with large and well-furnished rooms." It was located on the northwest corner of Main and Ferry Streets, near the railroad depot.

As the community of Anderson began to grow up along the railroad, its beginning was certainly not pretentious. W. W. Elmore, who bought an acre of land in Anderson for \$100 and erected the second house in the new town, said he had to cut a road through the manzanita to get to his home. One unusual early civic problem was revealed by a correspondent to the *Reading Independent* on December 5, 1878. He contended that although "business in this burg is good,"

A greater annoyance could hardly be endured than the indomitable hog of this town, allowed as he is to roam at will through the streets. He is ever on the alert to enter any house left open for a moment, to prospect for something wherewith to gratify his insatiable appetite . . . It is sincerely hoped that in the near future a hog law similar to that now in effect in Reading and Shasta will be passed for the benefit of this town and the discomfort of Mr. Hog.

By the early 1880's Anderson was becoming more important as the shipping center of an agriculturally productive area. In 1883 the population of the town was estimated at 300 and Anderson had two hotels, a post office and a school, which operated on a six and one-half month term. During the month of August, 1880, the Anderson railroad depot received 440,000 pounds of freight and sold \$1,100 worth of passenger tickets. A *Courier* article of the late 70's asserted that: "Business is quite brisk. Quartz teams come in from the copper mines twice or three times a week, while other freight teams arrive and depart daily." In 1880 a similar correspondent announced that: "There are 200 head of fine cattle here awaiting shipment, this being the third band of like size in the past six weeks." At the same time it cost a passenger \$.50 to take the train from Anderson to Redding. There were two trains going both north and south during the day.

During the decade of the 80's and into the 90's much effort was expended to draw population to the new hamlet. The chief real estate agent was Edward Frisbie, who as far back as 1879 was offering, "choice grain, orchard and pasture" land in and around Anderson for \$3 - \$5 per acre. This effort was aided by the town newspaper, the *Enterprise*, begun in 1882. This weekly seemed to have two main purposes: to promote the peopling of Anderson and vicinity, and to support the Republican Party. Various other projects, such as the Monte Vista colony which offered river-front land two miles northeast of Anderson for one-third down and the remainder in two years, and the Shasta Land and Water Company, begun in 1886, encouraged immigration. However, not all the publicity was of local origin, for on October 13, 1888, the Sacramento *Daily Record-Union* ran a front page article which described Anderson as "the new castle of northern California," which served areas to the north and east as a shipping point for agricultural, ore and timber products. Not all of the information issued regarding the community could be termed modest. One Anderson advocate, discussing the town's intention to start a brass band, admitted its usefulness in "utilizing the excess wind in the community." He further substantiated his own premise by declaring: "When we get the instruments (for the band) it will astonish every town in the county to hear us

blow." On another county issue, the application for a state normal school, he modestly maintained that: "Anderson has sent no petition to the state legislature . . . , but if we could conclude to do so, there is no doubt of our ability to secure the prize."

By the late 1880's Anderson was reported to have 800 people and encompassed three blocks on each side of the railroad. It also boasted of four general merchandise stores which did over \$50,000 annual business, three hotels, and Methodist and Presbyterian churches. The biggest and oldest store in the town was that owned by Bedford and Wright which had been started with the town in 1872. Mr. Wright was also reported to have built the first house in Anderson in 1873. A new red brick school had been completed in 1885 at the cost of \$10,000 and in 1887 housed 210 pupils. In 1887 the first major catastrophe occurred in this young town's life. A fire, started by a defective flume between the Palace Saloon and Ferral's Barber Shop, destroyed \$75,000 worth of property, including two of the community's three hotels. A bucket brigade saved part of the town, and the city continued despite the fact that only \$22,350 of insurance covered the loss.

Other important steps were taken in the 1880's. In August, 1888, The Sacramento *Daily Record-Union* reported that water had been brought to Anderson by the newly formed Anderson Water Company from a 150 foot reservoir, and that this water system "worked like a charm." In addition, a citizens' group had brought about the passage of a bond issue to build a free bridge across the Sacramento River near Anderson. The issue passed by a 4-1 margin and a Captain Burrell of the California Bridge Company was commissioned to build a five-span iron bridge for \$95,873.

Lumber gained steadily as an important local business. The Shasta Lumber Company brought a railroad spur to Anderson which carried yellow and sugar pine from the forests to the east of the town. This lumber was first transported by flume from the Shingletown area and then was carried by rail to the terminal point at Anderson. The city was also recognized as a fruit center, with many new orchards appearing in the 80's and 90's. The most prominent of these was the Shade Farm two miles northeast of the community. These orchards produced mainly Bartlett pears, prunes, peaches, almonds, and a few apricots and cherries. In addition, the town had a seventy-five barrel gristmill, and a brick yard which produced 5,000,000 to 11,000,000 bricks per year.

In 1889 a district agricultural fair was started which charged a \$.50 admission fee for adults and \$.15 for children. During this period a farm hand made from \$1 - \$2 per day; a carpenter collected wages from \$3 - \$4 for the same period, while a teamster earned from \$30 - \$65 per month. In 1884 school teachers in Shasta County made \$73 per month for men teachers and \$65 per month for lady teachers. To buy a cow cost \$20 - \$30; barley was .01 $\frac{1}{2}$ and wheat .01 $\frac{1}{2}$ - .01 $\frac{3}{4}$ per pound, and coffee could be purchased five pounds for a dollar.

Not all was business in this western community. Among the principal activities of the early residents were those of a religious nature. Of special interest were the church camp meetings; these took place on Clear Creek or at Cottonwood, and were a week or ten day affairs to which a family would bring a tent and provisions sufficient for the length of the meetings. Religious meetings were frequently supplemented by political and patriotic gatherings. The Shasta *Courier* of July 8, 1882, presented a case in point:

Anderson was banner town of the county on July 4th and received a liberal benefit from the neighboring communities on the occasion of the 106th anniversary of American independence . . . Early in the day the deluge of people began to arrive from all quarters in buggies, carry-alls, header wagons, horseback and on foot, and soon the town was in a bustle.

The observer then went on to describe the day's program, commencing with a parade to a wooded grove on the outskirts of town in the morning, including a historical tableaux, singing of "America" by the village choir, poetic recitations and a speech by Edward Sweeney of Shasta, concluding with a moonlight ball.

Socially minded citizens might join the IOOF Lodge 254, or the Mt. Shasta Lodge 281 of the F & AM. The Good Templars were also represented and one could belong to the Winchester Post GAR #105. Temperance advocates were also afforded the advantage of a local organization to

promote their efforts. The moderating influences of such an environment perhaps helped to effect the following comment on the 1880 New Year's celebration in the town:

The future metropolis of Shasta County celebrated . . . I noticed a change in the order of last year's excesses and infer therefrom that the "swearing off" was done in advance. Not a single man was seen under the influence of "tangle-foot." The above fact may be owing to the labors of the temperance reformers who seem to be carrying the place by storm. On the eve of the 21st inst. a new "Council of Champions" was organized here with a membership of thirty-eight.

Additional forms of diversion were not forgotten in this first period of Anderson's history. During March, 1889, Miss Nettie Steel of Redding presented "eloquenceary entertainment from lightest comedy to heaviest tragedy" at Bedford's Hall. To witness her stirring performance cost \$.25 for an adult and \$.15 for a child. For those willing to travel for good entertainment, the Sells' Brothers presented a 3-ring hippodrome circus described as the "towering macedon of tented shows" in Redding.

By the turn of the century Anderson had become an important town in Shasta County. In 1900 the town's population was estimated at around 900 and it possessed three churches, five general merchandise stores, a flour mill and a paper mill. The central location of the town had brought about its importance as a shipping center for lumber and agricultural products. From its rail connection with the Terry Lumber Company at Bella Vista, Anderson had received and shipped twelve carloads of lumber in 1899. In addition, the town had received 3,842,420 pounds of flour, feed stuffs and general merchandise and had shipped 8,591,500 pounds of local products in the same year. This list of exports included 100 cars of livestock, fifty-nine cars of green fruit, and fifty-one cars of dried fruit.

Thus in the first thirty to forty years of its existence Anderson had grown from a single hotel with a few surrounding dwellings to a small, but steadily developing town of importance to the surrounding area.

Although Anderson had achieved a sound beginning by 1900, it was during the 20th century that the town came into its own. During the period before World War I, both agriculture and lumbering developed slowly and important innovations took place. For example, in 1909 box shook and lumber, plus miscellaneous wood products, accounted for a total of 19,141 tons shipped from Anderson. Brick came to 3,421 tons in that year, while green and dried fruit followed with 2,305 tons and cattle, horses and hogs amounted to 1,528 tons. However, after 1910, a decline in the local lumber industry took place, principally due to the acquisition and control of the area's timber resources by the Red River Lumber Company. This concern chose to utilize their timber supply in the Westwood area, while allowing their Shasta County forests to be dormant. In addition, the period prior to the war saw the development of the Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District. The opening of this water supply system would prove to be of major importance to the agricultural growth of the area.

A very important event in the town's history occurred in 1908 with the founding of a local high school. The initiative for this action came from J. H. Girdner, who, in August, 1908, circulated a petition for a high school for Anderson and vicinity. This petition was successful, and in the same year a vote of 294-1 confirmed the community's wish for the school. Ironically, the one dissenting vote was reported to have been cast by a person unable to read or write. A trustee from each of the sixteen elementary school districts to be represented at the school was appointed by the County Superintendent of Schools. This number was reduced to five in 1909.

The high school began its first term in 1909, with three faculty members and forty-five pupils. The scene of the school was the Mueller house located on the east side of the railroad track, which was purchased by the school board in 1910. In June, 1911, the first graduating class, composed of three members, was graduated.

Despite the addition of a second story to the Mueller house in 1912, the school building did not continue to keep up with the school's growth. As a result, a petition to build a new school was circulated in 1916. The first two attempts to pass a bond for the school failed. The reason for these initial failures seemed to have been the rivalry between Anderson and Cottonwood in regard to the proposed new high school. The first bond proposal, which was for \$60,000, prompted

a mass protest meeting in Cottonwood against a high school at Anderson. This feeling was carried into the bond election. Anderson voters passed the measure by a 5-1 majority, but were countermanded by the Cottonwood people who turned it down 65-1. However, by 1917 the measure passed 277-49. On March 1, 1918, Oakland attorney, John H. Tolen, gave the dedicatory address for the new Spanish style building which had been erected on the wooded hill west of the city. When the high school moved to its new location, it had six teachers and eighty-seven students.

Education on the elementary level was built around a course of study which included English, arithmetic, geography, history and physiology. Some writing, drawing and music was taught, and physical education, domestic arts and limited offerings in manual training were added by 1917. Examinations were given for promotion of students to the high school level. These tests emphasized the youngster's ability to write legibly and spell correctly. To become a teacher during this period, one had to be eighteen and pass with at least a score of eighty-five per cent examinations on all the subjects taught in the public schools. In regard to size, the Anderson Elementary School in 1905 had four teachers and about two hundred pupils.

These first two decades of the 20th century witnessed other interesting happenings in this small city. The automobile had come to Anderson by the early 1900's, and by 1910 the *Anderson Valley News* declared that this new device was "becoming a farm necessity." The theatre continued to provide local entertainment. In 1910 the Great Lyric Amusement Company invited Andersonites to the local opera house to enjoy two full hours of diversion ranging from cowboy and Indian antics to a melodrama entitled, "A Love Lure." Incorporation as a city became a local topic of discussion in 1916, but nothing came of it. The local gazette during this era was an interesting combination of home news and diverse features. Serials including "The Chronicle of Addington Pace" and "Court Life in Japan," style recommendations, comments on foreign affairs, and tips to foster good health were consumed weekly by readers of the *Anderson Valley News*.

A contrast between the Anderson of 1872 and that of 1915 was provided in a commentary in the *Anderson Enterprise* of November 11, 1915:

We visited Anderson in 1872 and found it composed largely of saloons, miners, and sheep men. The saloon has gone. Two schools, four churches and a railroad have wrought the usual change and now the irrigation ditch is to make a still greater change . . . At present prunes and cattle are the principal products of the Anderson Valley. From the village east and south to the Sacramento River, prune orchards are visible in every direction.

In 1916 Anderson citizenry helped re-elect President Woodrow Wilson who had "kept us out of war." However, with the entrance of the United States into the conflict in the following year, the town bent its back under the war effort. Liberty bond campaigns, Red Cross drives for clothing, lists of addresses of soldiers in the local paper under the heading "Remember the Boys," and mounting numbers of local draftees evidenced this community's effort to help "make the world safe for democracy." In August, 1918, the first Shasta County soldier to be killed in action was a young man from Anderson. With the coming of the armistice in November, 1918, the Anderson paper joyfully exclaimed:

Bright and early last Monday morning, November 11th, the people of Anderson and nearby places were up and "telling the world" in loud tones with all kinds of noises for accompaniment, that we were glad the war ended . . . It was a real joy that came to the people in celebrating the end of the war, and that our boys were a big factor in forcing the Hun to "throw in the sponge."

An auto parade, the ringing of church bells, and a public bonfire served to further display the town's joy at the cessation of hostilities.

The period between the two wars was not a time of major transformation in Anderson. The effects of the depression and subsequent "New Deal" measures did play their part in the town's history. However, the entire inter-war period was marked by a lack of change which resulted from Anderson's position as a stable rural community.

Wages and prices in the 1920's were relatively unchanged from the figures of thirty years before. Peaches during 1919 had sold for 13½¢ per pound, dried pears for 18¢, almonds at 27¢

and apricots for 25¢. Lumber could be purchased for \$10- \$12 per 1,000 at one of the few local mills.

In 1921 the coming of the Oriental was of vital concern to many Californians. A number of Andersonites went on record as favoring an exclusion policy, and implemented their words by contributing \$60.50 to the Japanese Exclusion League. The justification for this action was that unless the Japanese immigration was curbed, "in a few years the little yellow man will control the majority of the farming in California." Several actions of a more beneficial nature took place in the same year. Vehicle travel between Redding and Cottonwood was made more promising when the Henry Kaiser Company of Seattle was awarded a contract to build a new highway through Anderson. In addition, the Shasta County Farm Bureau purchased seventeen acres along the highway north of Anderson to provide permanent grounds for a county agricultural fair.

During the decade of the 20's, bootlegging became a favorite pastime of a few Anderson citizens. A not infrequent local news headline might announce:

RAID MADE ON LOCAL HOUSE FOR ILLICIT BOOZE

Officers find 300 gallons of mash, some liquor, and a fine still. More than 300 gallons of brown sugar mash and a small amount of illicit whiskey was found in a raid in the _____ dwelling in east Anderson by Undersheriff Fred Richardson. A very well constructed still was also found, was destroyed by the officers and taken as evidence. The alleged proprietor . . . was not located and it is supposed was out with a full stock peddling his wares.

Some of the concoctions devised by Anderson amateur distillers were rather potent. In November, 1921, three local prohibition violators were arrested and it was stated during the trial that their most powerful mixture possessed 49.4% alcohol, while their mildest contained a mere 14.2%. By 1925 Anderson had achieved some notoriety as a bootlegging city because forty-three trials for violation of the Volstead Act had taken place in the town's tribunal. The local Chamber of Commerce rose to the city's defense, maintaining that those tried were "imported" culprits and not local citizens. The Shasta County District Attorney restored the local honor by issuing a statement that the trials had been held in Anderson because the town was more accessible and because its "high standards of citizenry assured fair determinations."

During the 20's teams represented the town in both baseball and basketball. Boxing also came to Anderson in the late 20's. Matches at the fairgrounds featured Anderson fighter Gene Dais against various outsiders, while four or five preliminaries filled out the evening's card.

Culturally, the Anderson of the 20's featured that venerated American institution, the Chautauqua. One week long program presented for the edification of Andersonites in 1921 included:

A series of musical and entertainment acts.

Character sketches and impersonations.

A Concert

An inspirational lecture "Levers That Move The World"

Original readings by R. P. Campbell, "The Western James Whitcomb Riley"

An illustrated lecture on "A Trip Through the Jungle" by Carveth Welles, noted explorer.

Several items of miscellaneous interest occurred during the 20's. In 1922 a subscription program for a Community Hall was undertaken. With the aid of benefit activities ranging from old-time movies to a concert program, the needed \$3,000 was obtained. The new hall opened in December, 1923. In the same year Anderson and Happy Valley prunes and peaches won first prizes at the state fair, and a farm mechanics shop at the high school was completed by student labor under the direction of George Tyler. At the close of 1923, the three Protestant churches of the city, the Presbyterian, Baptist, and Methodist, united into a Federated church. In August, 1925, new buildings had been completed to house the county fair. A year later the "worst storm in years" struck Anderson, washing the fish racks at Balls Ferry down the river.

The automobile was by this time a common commodity about Shasta County. A 1922 advertisement emphasized such distinctive features on the new models as: "a high hood, vacuum feed and rear gas tank on all models; drum type head lamps with legal lenses, . . . plate glass windows, straight side cord tires, sun visor, windshield wiper and dash light. The Sedanette is equipped with auto truck in rear." Prices on these (f.o.b. Flint, Michigan) ranged from \$510 for the five passenger roadster to \$680 for the two passenger utility coupe.

Anderson residents were not only becoming aware of auto transportation in the 20's, but their gaze was beginning to turn skyward, particularly on September 16, 1927, with this event reported by the *Anderson Valley News*:

Colonel Charles Lindbergh, who is admired by every one who has read of him, is dearer to the hearts of Shasta County people and school children for his gratuitous act in flying low and circling over the fairgrounds here last Friday. It was a thrill of a lifetime and women cried and others cheered as Lindy passed low over the fairgrounds, where he circled, going over the buildings less than one hundred feet. He dropped to the side, making himself visible, waved, and then turned southward on his journey, dropping a greeting as he went.

The effects of the crash of 1929 became evident in Anderson toward the end of the year. In December, 126 county residents were being given state and county aid. The first edition of the Anderson paper in 1930 minimized the effects of the depression by printing optimistic interviews with local businessmen. These men declared that their businesses had increased during 1929, and all predicted that 1930 would be a bright year. These assurances did not materialize. In 1931 the local fair was not held, and by June, 1932, three tons of Red Cross flour arrived for the local needy and was issued in twenty-five and fifty pound bags. The Anderson Home Economics Club tried a new approach by holding a "depression party," and in December, 1932, 350 men sought work on a local road construction job for which there were six openings. Anderson voters supported their desire for "New Deal" proposals to curb the depression by endorsing Franklin Roosevelt over Herbert Hoover 251-99 in the Presidential Election of 1932, despite the statement by the Anderson newspaper editor that: "Hoover, by his sane policy, has kept conditions from becoming far worse than they otherwise would have been." In the same election the city supported the repeal of prohibition by a 286-152 margin.

Although optimism regarding 1933 was abundant, actual conditions proved otherwise. In January the price of haircuts dropped from 50¢ to 25¢. During July all of the high school teachers' salaries, which were already reported to be the lowest in the state for a school of Anderson's size, were reduced by ten per cent. At the grammar school all of the staff employed for the 1933 school year were new except one. This shake-up occurred after the school board decided to use only local personnel in the school system. The county tax rate, set at \$2.67 in 1932, was reduced to \$1.87 the following year. In addition, the local paper emphasized a "Buy American" campaign by declaring that "one of the quickest ways to bring prosperity back to this country is to insist on buying American goods, even if they are a little higher in price." The paper then revealed that one out of ten noisemakers used by Redding revelers in the last New Year's celebration was foreign made and cautioned against buying a pair of Japanese tennis shoes selling at 14¢, as compared with 69¢ for its rival American brand.

In February, 1933, a community relief camp was set up at the fairgrounds to take care of men out of work. This camp provided food, clothing, medical attention and shelter in return for labor on local irrigation and mosquito abatement projects. In the latter part of 1933 and into 1934, the relief programs established by the federal government began to function locally. By the end of 1933, 300 men were enrolled in Civilian Conservation Corps camps in Shasta County, and in March, 1934, a new high school gym was begun by the Public Works Administration. The Works Progress Administration was also active around Anderson, cleaning out the Anderson Creek and building a new two-cell jail.

The utopian schemes of Upton Sinclair seemed to appeal to the Anderson electorate, for locally he defeated Frank Merriam by a vote of 271-224 for his unsuccessful bid for the governorship in 1934. In 1935 a Townsend Club was also formed, with over 100 displaying interest in the group. In the same year the vast Central Valley Project was allotted federal funds, and the old age pension bill was added to the California statute books. By the end of 1935 California relief

rolls were being reduced and the depression appeared to be on the way out. Hourly wages in 1937 were up to \$1.25 an hour for a carpenter, \$1.00 for a painter, 75¢ for a truck driver, 69¢ for a laborer, and 60¢ for a teamster. In the same year Anderson received 24-hour telephone service.

The year 1937 also brought the coldest weather Anderson had seen for many years. In January the thermometer got down to ten degrees above zero and seventeen inches of light snow blanketed the city, closing the schools and tying up traffic. During December one of the worst rains in forty years struck the city. A wall of water pushed down Center Street in Anderson, and almost \$233,000 of flood damage was reported throughout the county.

Unions were beginning to exert a powerful force during this period. In March, 1938, the Shasta Farm and Workers Union organized in Anderson, while in April several Shasta County sit down strikers went to jail for their protests. In addition, the nationwide WPA strike of July, 1939, affected some eighty Anderson men.

By the time war had broken out in Europe in September, 1939, the high school enrollment had risen to 201 and the elementary to 185 pupils. Anderson voters opposed the Life Retirement, or "Ham and Eggs," amendment 372-341 in the same year. Also, many local citizens were attending the World's Fair at Treasure Island.

The war in Europe did not seem so far away in 1940 when convoys of Army trucks began to move troops through Anderson. The seriousness of the world situation was further emphasized by the registration of Anderson men for the draft after the conscription bill of July, 1940, and by the program to register local aliens in August. In November the U. S. Army advertised for four eight-year-old horses for which it would pay \$150-\$175 apiece. A defensive training course was inaugurated at the high school in May, 1941, and in February of the same year, the WPA allotted \$212,000 for an Army airport at Stillwater Plains, two miles east of Anderson. A county aircraft warning system was organized in August, and the Navy was offering young men "the greatest life in the world." Food prices were up twelve per cent and employment fourteen per cent in 1941 in California. During this year one-third of Shasta Dam had been completed, with 2,000,000 yards of cement already part of the gigantic structure.

With the American entrance into the global conflict in December, 1941, Anderson quickly became engaged in the war effort. Farmers were exhorted to increase production, and during 1942 farm prices reached the highest level on record. Rationing brought the war directly into the home as sugar, meat, canned goods, and butter went on the list of goods requiring ration stamps. The draft was stepped up, with ninety-two Anderson men registering in February, 1942. By August, 1942, the 1B classification exemption men for minor defects was abolished. To keep the military rolling, Anderson residents brought in scrap iron to be used in the nation's steel mills and read articles in the Anderson paper on how to alter their old clothing rather than buying new. They collected rubber material ranging from jar rings to bathing suits, eliciting from an Anderson newspaper writer the observation:

Who would have ever thought that a few months ago one would ever have to watch his starts and stops on account of saving rubber. Rubber was just something we took for granted like a lot of other old things . . . Today it has all been gathered up for war purposes and no new tires can be bought except in certain classifications. Such is war and its sacrifices are coming closer to home every day.

In November of 1942 the town had helped elect a new governor named Earl Warren, and by January of the following year at least seventy-five Anderson men were in the armed forces. Wages continued to go up with local high school teachers receiving a ten per cent boost to bring the average salary to \$2,050. Local papers were reciting stories of Japanese cruelties, and when the Rotarians met in September, 1943, they pledged to buy \$1,000 worth of war bonds.

During 1944 the fourth war bond drive was completed and local high school students were given special commendation for their work in harvesting fall crops. Bacon at this time was up to 31¢ per pound, eggs were 34¢ a dozen, and one could get a beef roast (if available) for 23¢ per pound. County workers at this time received \$8 a day for foremen, \$6 for laborers, \$7 for truck drivers, and \$5 for flagmen.

Just after the Allied invasion of Europe at Normandy in June, 1944, it was announced that the Deschutes Lumber Company was planning to build a large sawmill near Anderson. This Oregon concern purchased 110 acres south of town and promised that 160 men would be employed when the plant was completed. An Anderson *Valley News* writer correctly predicted this operation to be "the forerunner of many more" and introduced the new concern on April 26, 1945:

The town of Anderson's commercial growth started with the lumber industry in the early days when some 400 six and eight horse teams hauled lumber from the Viola country. This week saw a revival of the lumber industry when the Deschutes Lumber Company started their new modern plant just south of Anderson . . . The new plant occupies 110 acres and has a capacity of 35,000,000 board feet a year.

Another new industry arrived at about the same time when the Carnation Milk Company bought the vacated Tomales Bay Creamery Company building early in August.

By the time of Germany's surrender in May, 1945, the Anderson service flag in the local post office contained five gold stars for men killed in action. With the news of the Japanese surrender on August 14, 1945, Andersonites celebrated with abandon. The Anderson *Valley News* reported business at a standstill, local night spots crowded, and citizens rejoicing in the streets.

The final period in the history of Anderson has been an era of marked growth and development. In the twenty-five year period since the war, the town had grown from approximately 1,500 people to 6,000. Industrial expansion has been almost continuous, and the political status of the town has changed to that of an incorporated city.

As the veterans returned home, several actions important to the town were taking place. In February, 1946, a utility district was formed to aid the water situation in Anderson, and the elementary school board voted to build a new school. In addition, a veterans' housing unit was erected just below the high school.

In 1946 the Deschutes mill employed 160 men. In October, 1947, Deschutes sold their Anderson holdings to the Ralph L. Smith Company. This firm announced a rapid expansion program aimed at doubling the capacity of the Deschutes operation. At the same time the Red River Lumber Company, which owned most of the timber land to the northeast of Anderson, announced a \$5,000,000 sale amounting to 57.4% of its interests. The largest buyer was the Ralph L. Smith Company with a purchase amounting to nearly \$3,000,000, while a large amount of timber also went to a new firm located one and one-half miles above Anderson—the Shasta Plywood Corporation. This \$2,000,000 plant, the largest of its kind in the United States, was to begin work with a crew of 350 men.

During 1947 the city's growth was demonstrated when Anderson was named a second class post office. In the same year a new Baptist church was begun, and local school enrollments had risen to 239 at the high school and 325 in the elementary school. Prices at this time were also on the rise—bacon was 69¢ a pound, milk 20¢ a quart, and beef ribs 39¢ a pound.

Incorporation again became an important issue in 1948, but in a vote in April was prevented by a 207-189 margin. Early in 1948 a \$78,000 sewerage plant for Anderson was approved by the state. By May, seven mills had been established around Anderson since the war, and the weekly payroll in the vicinity amounted to around \$150,000. Chief among the new mills being built was the Del Loma Lumber Company one mile north of town, and Paul Bunyan Lumber Company south of the city on the Panorama Point Road. In 1948 the Pacific Gas and Electric Company spent \$130,000 enlarging the Anderson Substation to accommodate the new milling concerns. Growth was also indicated when the Bank of America granted a charter for a branch bank in Anderson on November 18, 1948.

When school opened in September, 1948, part of the 409 elementary students were attending classes at the fairgrounds until a new school would be completed. In November the high school district passed a \$250,000 bond issue to provide facilities for a student body which had increased from 133 to 276 since 1944. A new highway was completed between Anderson and Cottonwood in November, 1948, and as the highway came through Anderson, the appearance of the block facing the roadway underwent a radical change to make way for a business lane adjacent to the new thoroughfare. Many of the older buildings were removed and new fronts emerged. Prominent among these business centers was the Loomis Building, which housed five new stores.

Again in 1949 a strong incorporation movement was underway. However, it met defeat 253-179. In 1950 the growing elementary school district, now with 555 pupils, passed another bond issue. Both Ralph L. Smith Company and Shasta Plywood were expanding, and in March the new Anderson sewer system was in operation. When the census was taken in June, 1950, the town was found to have 2,569 citizens. Young men were being drafted for duty in the Korean War. In September, Anderson sent several of its young people to newly-formed Shasta College in Redding. In August, 1950, Shasta Plywood announced plans for a Novoply plant at its Anderson operation. This mill, which would cost \$2,000,000 and employ 125 men, was to produce a plyboard made from lumber waste products. It would be the only plant of its kind in the United States.

By 1951, Anderson had over thirty social and civic groups. There were six churches in the town and in September work on a new Methodist Church was begun. In 1952 the largest election turn-out in the city's history brought 878 votes to Dwight D. Eisenhower as against 770 for Adlai Stevenson.

A new sight to Anderson, the subdivision, appeared in November, 1952, with the development of a 150-home tract on the Robert Bailey Ranch east of town. This Meadow Lane Subdivision was finished in 1954. By 1954, 1,500 men were employed in Anderson area mills with Shasta Plywood contributing 750 and Smith's 650. Little League baseball also came to Anderson in 1954 under the auspices of the Kiwanis Club. Four teams made up the initial league and plans for a Little League park on the site of the old elementary school were underway.

Anderson continued to grow throughout the decade of the 50's. A Swimming Pool Association, sponsored jointly by the high school trustees and a group of interested citizens, was begun in 1954, and a pool was completed in 1956. A ten room addition was granted the elementary school by the state in the same year, and in October a \$50,000 pole yard south of Anderson was established by Kopper's Company, Inc. Building development increased, the foremost being the Anderson Heights Subdivision south of Anderson. This project, initiated by the Beresa Company, Inc. of Chico, planned 624 homes which would sell for \$9,700 - \$13,750 each. At about the same time the R. M. Kennicott Company of Redding projected a plan for 100 homes on the south side of River Road. New churches were also a part of this growth. In 1954 the Latter-Day Saints had announced plans for an \$80,000 edifice in Anderson, while by 1957 new buildings had been started by the Nazarenes, Catholics and Assembly of God. Two new trailer parks had also been started; a thirty unit village a mile south of the town on Highway 99, and a 100 trailer park north of Anderson on the corner of Highway 99 and the Happy Valley Road. In addition, Longfellow's had opened a \$75,000 supermarket in July, 1957.

As 1956 approached, incorporation again became a major issue. In a vote held on January 6, 1956, Anderson became an incorporated city. With the establishment of city government, Ralph Ganyon became the first mayor of Anderson. During this first year a three man police force was set up, contracts with the county for street and road maintenance were initiated, and a planning commission was placed in operation. By the 1955-56 school year the high school had increased to 561 pupils, while the elementary school totaled 1,089. Both schools were successful in passing bond issues during 1956. The high school received funds to build a new gymnasium, while the elementary district was able to begin a new school at Anderson Heights.

By July, 1957, the city's contracts with the county had been terminated and Anderson had its own law enforcement body. An unofficial census in September, 1957, showed the Anderson population to be 4,246. In addition, during 1957 the first city council approved several important measures, including a Subdivision ordinance and the hiring of a part-time city engineer.

During 1958 the ultra-modern Faith Lutheran Church was completed in Anderson Heights, and Farmer's Food Stores of Redding announced plans for a \$1,000,000 supermarket in Anderson. The new city government encountered some hectic times after the firing of the chief of police by the city council in October, 1958. A recall group called the Citizens' Committee for Better Government was formed after the ouster to seek the recall of the three councilmen who had been responsible for the removal. This committee was successful in its recall efforts and three new councilmen were elected in January, 1959. Construction in Anderson during 1958 had reached an all time high of nearly \$1,000,000. In addition, a Dunn and Bradstreet survey indicated that the city was leading the rest of the county in industrial development with a seventy-two per cent increase in business establishments between 1953 and 1958. In July, 1959, a new Anderson

Public Building was opened which contained facilities for a fire hall, a library, and other public offices. In September, Miller's Markets announced that a second shopping center was planned for the area adjacent to their new market. The first Anderson shopping center, White City, had been completed early in the year, and in November, Andersonites could dial their own radio station, KPON.

In the fiscal year 1959, the city's taxable sales amounted to over \$4,000,000. The most recent population estimate was 6,038 and the assessed city valuation was \$4,319,575. Anderson also built a park, equipped with tennis courts, play equipment and picnic facilities, on the site of the former Veterans' Housing project below the high school. In addition, a city parking area on East Center Street was completed. Anderson had about thirty-five civic groups and fifteen churches in 1959.

The year 1961 marked an event of long-term significance to Anderson. After negotiations covering more than a year's time, the Ralph L. Smith Company announced a merger of its stock with the Kimberly-Clark Corporation, manufacturer of Kleenex and other well-known products; the purpose to erect a vast paper-pulp plant in conjunction with the present Smith operation. To make this possible, several obstacles had to be overcome. Smith stockholders had to agree to the merger. Kimberly-Clark in turn needed to determine whether Smith's timber was usable for the manufacture of its products, as well as convince the state water pollution control board that its effluent treatment plans were capable of preventing pollution of the Sacramento River. These problems were resolved by mid-1961. That year also saw the movement of several businesses to East Street, as well as the erection of a new post office on that street. A Dunn and Bradstreet survey published in 1962 pointed to a noteworthy 61.1 per cent business growth in the preceding five years in Anderson. In addition, 1962 also witnessed the development of a new subdivision, Ravenwood, to accommodate a growing population.

In May of 1963 the economy in the Anderson area was temporarily slowed down by a fourteen week strike at the U. S. Plywood Plant, ending in September.

Because of the growth in the population of school children, the old high school, erected in 1917, was deemed inadequate and was torn down to make way for new classrooms provided for in a \$730,000 bond issue passed in September of 1963.

Construction of the Kimberly-Clark plant by H. K. Ferguson Construction Company of San Francisco was well along by January 1, 1964, and it was anticipated that the operation would be making pulp by the summer of 1964 and manufacturing paper by November, 1964—producing enough paper each day to cover a highway 30 feet wide from Anderson to San Francisco.

Governor Edmund G. Brown came to the city in June, 1965, to dedicate the pulp and paper plant and emphasized the significance of that addition to the north state economy. Termed the "Wood Products Capitol of the West," Anderson by 1967 had grown to 6,250 people, with an annual payroll of \$15,000,000 to the 2,500 people working in local lumber or paper plants.

Thus with the coming of Kimberly-Clark to stabilize the future of the local lumber industry, and with the sound municipal advances since 1956, Anderson appeared destined to continue its remarkable growth as a thriving industrial city.