



FORESTRY NEWS



Mill Re-opening!

All eyes were on the semi-trailer stage that had a big black and white arrow with the words Fort Apache Timber Co written on its side. FATCO had been reborn as WMATCO or officially White Mountain Forest Industries. Edgar Perry sang the national anthem in Apache and speakers ranging from the Chairman, Council members, the Operations Manager, the President of the WMATCO Board, and board members addressed the audience.



Gary Cantrell, (Ops. Mgr.) encouraged those gathered and those listening by radio to bring in their job applications. He said that hiring would be incremental as they needed

people with different skills to report to work. Gary stressed that safety and quality were going to be the hallmarks of WMATCO. Councilwoman Theresa Larzelere appealed to a good work ethic from applicants stating



“You’re going to have to sweat it out! You’re going to have to work hard!” She remembered when FATCO first opened. “I was about 12 years old when we opened FATCO. We had a barbecue. That was a good thing that happened in those days!” She remarked “This is the day that the Lord has made and we should all be happy that we are going to open WMATCO!”

Larry Vicario, the new President of the Board for WMATCO stated that “It is exciting to be back in the lumber business.” “It is your skills and our ability to learn that will determine your ability to keep a job.” “Politics are out”, he stated.

That sentiment was widespread. Councilman Kino Kane continued the theme, “Politics is what put FATCO down.” Few were willing to let that continue. Wilkie Gregg

talked about the days leading up to this reopening: “We were down, had no funds, didn’t know where to turn to....”



It had been a 2 and 1/2 year wait for FATCO to reopen.

The new company hopes to start bringing in logs next month so that they can build up a log deck of 5 to 8 MMBF this fall. Then the plan is to open the large mill and be sawing logs in February, 2014 followed by the opening of the small mill in March. It will take a huge effort on everyone’s part to make everything happen that will be necessary to open the mill. Wilkie, as Acting Manager for Logging Operations let the audience know that he gladly accepted the challenge when it came to reopening the mill. Edgar Perry in his opening remarks put it in starker terms: “That’s our responsibility.....to survive”

