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THE LEGACY OF LUMBER
A HISTORY OF THE LUMBER INDUSTRY IN CALIFORNIA & THE WEST

Published by the West Coast Lumber & Building Material Association
In celebration of its 100th Anniversary in 2017
Compiled and written by Ken Dunham
with additional materials by Kathleen Beasley
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California and the West have one of the richest histories and traditions in the lumber industry, but little has been written on the business of lumber itself. Most books have focused on logging, sawmills and even the transportation of lumber. This new book ties it all together, from the time English settlers landed on the East Coast to the westward expansion in the 1840s. It is not an idle boast that lumber built America and any new community usually had a lumberyard as one of its first businesses. In fact, the word “lumber” is an American word that described wood processed from felled trees and thus supposedly not subject to ownership or taxable by the English crown.

This book is a highly readable history of this important American industry with a focus on California and the West, with the individual stories of the lumberyards and lumber dealers who built this industry. This book is a great overview and story of the lumber industry.

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