

Summer Issue

August, 2006



THOMASSON LUMBER COMPANY

# THE POLE FOLKS

## FEAST OR FAMINE

Demand for utility poles was down during 2002 and 2003 even though housing starts were high. Demand began to increase in 2004 and then the hurricanes hit. This caused an unprecedented shortage of almost all size poles.

Now we have housing starts declining; and even though almost every pole mill has increased their production, utility poles are still not abundant. The big question is "How long is the pole demand going to be this strong"?

Here are two theories about the demand of poles:

- Pole demand closely follows new house construction. Since home starts are declining, we should begin to see a lower demand for poles.
- Pole demand is low when housing starts are high because the crews are busy installing meters and do not have time for routine maintenance of lines. When the crews have time to maintain the lines, they use more poles for replacement.

We would appreciate you giving us your thoughts on the change in demand of poles. You can mail your response to Thomasson Lumber Company, **ATTN: POLE FOLKS RESPONSE**, P.O. Box 490, Philadelphia, MS 39350 or you can e-mail to [rox@thomassonlumber.com](mailto:rox@thomassonlumber.com). Each response will receive a TLC logo item.

## In Remembrance of Katrina



(FRONT)



(BACK)

Thomasson Lumber Company had commemorative coins minted for personnel who helped to restore power to Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana and Texas. Tell us how many you need and we will ship them to you.

# CREOSOTE SHORTAGE

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By American Wood Preservers Association standards, the definition for creosote is as follows: "creosote shall be a distillate derived entirely from tar produced by carbonization of bituminous coal."

Currently, creosote is in very short supply. Reasons for the shortage are as follows:

1. There has been a reduction in the number of operating coke ovens.
2. Some manufacturing facilities have been burning the coal tar they produce as fuel rather than purchasing oil.
3. Coal tar distillate is being sold as a feed stock for the production of carbon black. Carbon black is used for the manufacture of tires and other products. Because of the improvement in the world economy, there is an increased demand for carbon black in Europe and Asia.
4. The railroads are purchasing more crossties now because of favorable business conditions.

Historically, about 80% of creosote has been used in the treatment of crossties and only about 20% used for poles and piling. There are suitable preservatives which can be substituted for the creosote treatment of poles and piling. Creosote is needed for the treatment of crossties. Evidently, the creosote manufacturers have decided if there is not enough creosote to supply both markets, the first priority will be for crossties. Given tight supply, we believe that the creosote manufacturers are giving priority to furnishing the crosstie market with preservative since they have no substitute treatment.

A limited amount of creosote poles are still available for extended shipment.

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## INDUSTRY NEWS

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Bill Baldwin of Arch Chemical and Carl Mutch of Cox Wood lost their lives July 6<sup>th</sup> in a tragic fire. Both had served in the treating industry well for many years. We mourn the loss of these first-rate individuals.

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## WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

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Craig Vowell has joined our sales staff. He is a graduate of Mississippi State University. For the past year, Craig has helped us get East Mississippi Pole Company off to a fast start. Craig is full of vim and vitality with a lot of personality.

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# TRANSMISSION POLES

Because we stock poles in Douglas Fir and Southern Pine and some of the pine is treated in Penta and some in CCA, we have combined these as one inventory.

## FOB JEFFERSONVILLE, INDIANA

Class & Length			In Stock	Sold & Committed
2	-	60	36	18
2	-	65	44	28
2	-	70	54	27
2	-	75	29	10
2	-	80	9	3
2	-	85	9	7
2	-	90	2	0
2	-	95	4	1
1	-	60	57	68
1	-	65	72	104
1	-	70	129	148
1	-	75	73	72
1	-	80	32	33
1	-	85	42	40
1	-	90	22	6
1	-	95	8	0
1	-	100	7	0
1	-	105	2	0

## FOB TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA

Class & Length			In Stock	Sold & Committed
H1	-	60	19	0
H1	-	65	22	22
H1	-	70	85	56
H1	-	75	24	49
H1	-	80	50	29
H1	-	85	34	8
H1	-	90	18	10
H1	-	95	4	0
H1	-	100	16	11
H1	-	110	4	2
H1	-	115	4	0
H2	-	60	4	0
H2	-	65	15	3
H2	-	70	47	23
H2	-	75	94	84
H2	-	80	25	11
H2	-	85	40	28
H2	-	90	6	3
H2	-	95	4	1
H2	-	100	8	4
H2	-	105	6	1
H2	-	110	4	0
H3	-	65	2	0
H3	-	75	15	15

Class & Length			SYP - Penta	Sold
1	-	60	14	15
1	-	65	12	12
1	-	70	12	5
1	-	75	10	0
1	-	80	0	2
2	-	60	3	1
2	-	65	54	3
2	-	70	9	3
2	-	75	3	0
2	-	80	5	5
2	-	85	3	0
2	-	90		
H1	-	60	6	3
H1	-	65	30	16
H1	-	70	28	14
H1	-	75	8	6
H1	-	80	2	1
H1	-	85	3	0
H2	-	60	1	0
H2	-	65	12	0
H2	-	70	27	3

**SUBJECT TO PRIOR SALE.**

## THE VERSATILITY OF WOOD!

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**"You want a pole for what?"**



This is a Class H1-100' pole which we sold to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (North Carolina) for a performance by the Aztec Pole Dancers.

The "dance" called Voladores de Papantla is performed by four bird men of Totonacan blood who descend from the top of the universal tree, doing circles in the air. 30 meters above ground the leader dances and plays a ancient tribal instrument.

These Cherokee native "flyers" are worshipping the sun god. This impressive show of courage and faith of the fliers is an ancient ceremony to ask for a good harvest and fertility.

The flyers, representing the four elements and the four cardinal points, go up a 30 meter pole and tied by their waist jump head first into the air with their arms open. The fliers make their way down each going around the pole exactly 10 times which amount to the number of months in the Mayan calendar.