Pat Dallison



Pat Dallison was born at Middlebourne, West Virginia. He began his involvement in the forest industry at the age of 15, when he went to work as a cook at his father's sawmill, which was started in 1867 by Mr. Dallison's grandfather. He graduated from high school in 1927 and attended West Virginia University (WVU), studying engineering for one year before dropping out due to lack of money. After leaving WVU, Mr. Dallison returned home to work with his father in their sawmill business.

In 1937, Mr. Dallison and wife Helen began their own sawmill business in Smith-field, but in 1938, their sawmill burned. Determined to carry on the long family tradition, he went to work rebuilding the sawmill.

In 1943, Mr. Dallison relocated and built a mill at Pricetown. This mill was operated until he once again moved his operation to Wetzel County. In 1945, he moved his family to Folsom. He purchased land and build another sawmill in nearby Jacksonburg. It is here that Dallison Lumber is still operating today, run by his son Kenneth and grandson Eddie, and employing several area residents. Mr. Dallison's other son Dick oversees the company's logging operations.

Mr. Dallison's hard work and persistence have paid off for him throughout his sawmill career. Three different times, his mills have been destroyed by fire and each time he has worked diligently to build them back. The training he received while at WVU in mechanical drawing and mathematics have allowed him to design and build many tools and devices to improve quality and efficiency within his operation.

Throughout Mr. Dallison's life, he has made significant contributions to the forestry and sawmill industries in West Virginia. On the local level, he has supplied lumber to several valuable causes. Mr. Dallison helped organize the first fire department in Folsom and helped to acquire their first fire truck. He has been very active in New Martinsville's Town and Country Days Festival and received the Good Neighbor Award for his work in 1982.

On the state level, Mr. Dallison has also been very active. He was one of the original founders of the Sawmill Operators of West Virginia, known today as the West Virginia Forestry Association, serving as president and currently Director Emeritus. Mr. Dallison donated wood to rebuild the Philippi Bridge and Liberty Bell replica display at the State Capitol in Charleston.

Mr. Dallison has served as the deputy master of the Mannington Masons A.F. & A.M. and is a member of the Smithfield Lions Club and Folsom United Methodist Church.

Today, Mr. Dallison enjoys woodworking hobbies, visiting the sawmill and logging jobs at least once a week.