

Was Emil Modest—or Just Too Busy?

Perhaps it was because Emil Oslin is a modest man—too shy to blow his own horn.

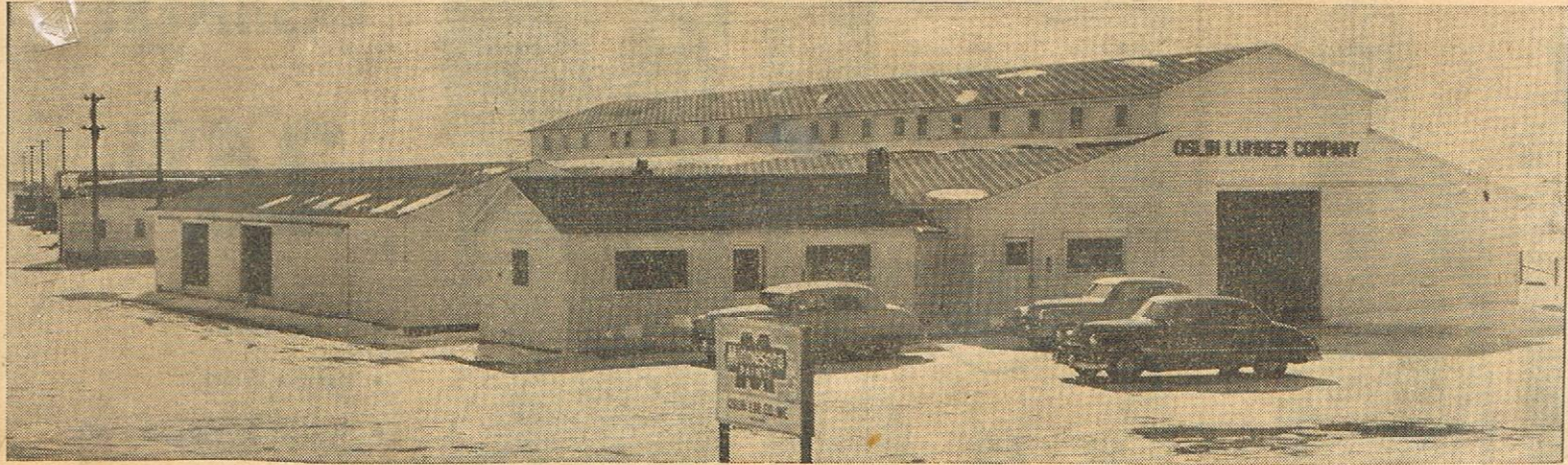
Or perhaps he was just so busy during the past quarter of a century serving the building materials needs of the people of the bustling town of Quamba, Minn., and its surrounding territory.

At any rate, Emil never quite got around to re-naming his firm, the Rudd Lumber Co., which he purchased 28 years ago.

Over at Mora, Minn., his other yard proudly bore the title, Oslin Lumber Co. — but not in Quamba.

But on Dec. 1 the Rudd concern officially became the Oslin Lumber Co. And the people of Quamba hope that Emil will be around for yet another 28 years, dispensing his special brand of friendly service and carrying on the fine tradition of his company.

Oslin Lumber Built Yard in Mora in 1953



OSLIN LUMBER COMPANY, LOCATED ON HIGHWAY 23 IN EAST MORA

—Orren Lucht, Photographer

Installing a saw mill and planer in the Rudd Lumber company at Quamba during World War II gave the company lumber to sell and made the yard known to builders for miles around.

The business built up at that time has continued to keep the yard growing, according to the owner, Emil Oslin.

The reason the mill and planer was necessary was that all lumber was put on a priority basis and this area did not qualify for an allotment.

Any lumber sawed and processed locally was not listed on priority and Oslin could sell all he could cut.

Crews of men and horses worked in the woods during the winter and an average of 300,000 feet of lumber was sawed, planed and sold each year. The mill operated from 1940 to 1952.

Oslin started in the lumber business in Quamba in 1927 when he and F. P. Powers bought a half interest in the Rudd yard.

Powers held his share for about a year and then sold it back to the Rudd people. The Rudd Lumber company at the time had 17 yards with headquarters in Princeton.

Emil's only experience in the lumber business prior to the purchase of the company from M. K.



Howard, Emil and Harold Oslin

Rudd was restricted to working in the woods.

At the time the yard was bought and for a few years afterward, Emil operated a potato warehouse in Quamba. He got into that business in 1919.

Oslin bought another quarter of the stock from Rudd in 1926 and got the other half of the company in 1940. Harold and Howard, the

Oslins' twin boys, came into the business at the time.

War clouds were creating a demand for lumber in 1940 and that year no more purchases of commercially processed material could be made.

Emil then bought the mill and a planer and operated them with steam power during the war years. In 1946 the steam power was

changed to diesel power.

The company had no trouble selling the lumber it processed. Farmers from a wide area and even builders from the cities came and hauled away everything the mill could turn out.

Looking for a wider market, the company decided to move to Mora. The present yard was completed in 1953 and the mill at Quamba was shut down the year before.

While woods work and sawing are not being done now, the company is still buying rough lumber and planing it for resale.

The outfit used is the same planer that was used in Quamba. A building was built behind the yard in 1955 and the machinery skidded to Mora one day when the road was icy.

Each year about 200,000 feet of lumber is dried and planed at the Mora yard.

Another thing that was changed when the company moved to Mora was the corporation name. All through the years at Quamba the firm went under the Rudd Lumber company name. In 1953 it became the Oslin Lumber company.

Both yards, the one in Quamba and the Mora yard, are the retail outlets for the firm. Several trucks are used to make deliveries to building sites or to haul lumber and other materials from Minneapolis and Duluth.