



EZ BOARDWALK

Sawyer
Edward
Zimmerman

Tailman
Melvin
Zimmerman

Log Scale
365

Sawing Time
1 hr. 3 min. 24 sec.

BF/HR
365

Net Yield
386

Percent Scale
106%

Percent Overrun
6%

EZ Boardwalk

ED ZIMMERMAN did not know quite what to expect when he decided to bring his EZ Boardwalk manual band saw mill to Morgantown. Though he had heard of the Shoot-Out, he had never attended one. As his sky-blue mill sat lined up with the other machines ready to run, there was something oddly skewed about it—the carriage was at a slight angle to the track. In spite of the appearance, the machine had not been damaged during its trip from Missouri, nor was this the result of a careless welder. The design, according to Ed, uses the angle of the blade to pull itself into the cut. Not exactly a power feed, but Ed made it quite clear during his demonstration that running his mill was, in fact, an easy boardwalk as he slid the blade through the logs with a light one-handed push. “Except for the third log. When I cut into it, I hit something, maybe a piece of gravel, and

we had to stop and put on a new blade,” he recalled.

The EZ Boardwalk comes with a towing package, but, according to Ed, it is designed to be used on the ground. Ed chose to use the optional 24-hp Honda engine to power the 1-1/4-inch wide band saw blade. As with all the manual mills, however, it was muscle power that did the rest. They used cant hooks for most of the log handling, but one log was large enough to require them to use a winch to load it. “Those debarked logs were really something,” Ed commented.

Ed and his son Melvin loaded, clamped, sawed, turned, and edged their four logs at a steady pace for 1 hour, 3 minutes, 24 seconds, converting them to 386 board feet of lumber. The steady pace and Ed’s meticulous approach paid off when log scaler Skip Morglia inspected the lumber and put every one of the 47 boards

"I didn't watch the other guys a whole lot. I was just trying to keep my nose where it was supposed to be." —Ed Zimmerman

on the acceptable stack registering a 6% overrun above the log scale. Skip commented that Ed cut a number of boards 11 inches wide, which had to be "pencil trimmed" back to 10 inches. If Ed had used a different cutting pattern, his yield might have been even higher.

Ed and Melvin have spent far more time working together building the mills than sawing with them. As Ed put it, "I saw very little at home. Sometimes we will do a demonstration on a mill for a customer. Once in a while a neighbor might ask about custom sawing when I'm in a good mood, and I'll do it for



him. I enjoy running the mill, but it's just one of those things I don't have time for."

Neither Ed nor Melvin let the rain or the event distract them from the job at hand. "The rain didn't bother me that much. It just kept things cooler." Ed continued, "I didn't watch the

other guys a whole lot. I was just trying to keep my nose where it was supposed to be." Ed was pleased with the event in general and with the interest people had in his sawmills. He brought three machines to Morgantown, and returned home with an empty truck. ■

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