Pumice Engineering Company

NAME	OLD NAMES	PRINCIPAL ORE	MINOR MINERALS
		Pumice	

18S 12E 7-8 (Van Metre Pit)
18S 12E 1-2-11-12 (Conlee Pit)

T R S

PUBLISHED REFERENCES

...Deschutes..... COUNTY

...unclassified..... AREA

..... ELEVATION

MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS

..... ROAD OR HIGHWAY

..... DISTANCE TO SHIPPING POINT

PRESENT LEGAL OWNER (S) ..... Address .....

....

....

....

OPERATOR ....Pumice.Engineering.Company..... .Attn:.Merle.S.leeper,.Box.808,.Bend,.Ore.....

Name of claims	Area	Pat.	Unpat.
see report			

Name of claims	Area	Pat.	Unpat.

EQUIPMENT ON PROPERTY see report

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

Pumice Engineering Company (pumice aggregate) Deschutes County

Owner: Merle Sleeper

Operating address: Bend, Oregon

General: This company is officially out of business. Operations terminated at the end of 1951 and the plant and equipment was sold in the summer of 1952. There is no new successor operation.

* * *

Report by: N. S. Wagner
Date: January 27, 1953

CONFIDENTIAL

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

Pumice Engineering Company (pumice)

Unclassified District
Deschutes County

Owner-Operator: Merle Sleeper
Pumice Engineering Company
Box 808, Bend, Oregon

Location: T 18 S; R 12 E; Sections 7 and 8 (VanMetre or old Moore pit)
T 18 S; R 12 E; Sections 1, 2, 11 and 12 (Conlee pit)
Processing plant on railroad in Industrial District of Bend.

General: This operation is conducted on an engineering basis more so than is any other pumice operation in Oregon. I have heard however, that the company is in a delicate financial shape; that they are operating under a large (and recent) R.F.C. loan. That their financial shape is delicate I was given to understand by Sleeper himself. Mention of the R.F.C. loan came through one of Sleeper's cheifest competitors. In this respect all operators in the district are outspoken in adverse criticism of Sleeper's business ability and ethics. Competitive friction is intense, particularly between Sleeper and Williamson. Sleeper doesn't hesitate to discuss the fact, but I never have heard him run down other operators personal character. In his discussions with me Sleeper was very frank, didn't hesitate to answer any questions, but didn't hesitate either in saying what he wanted kept confidential- and why. On the other hand all other operators and particularly so Williamson, were secretive to a greater or lesser extent, and tended to be evasive in their answers to questions regarding their operations. For my part I like Sleeper and it is my feeling that he is a victim of a smear campaign led by Williamson.

CONFIDENTIAL

Production by this company for the year 1948 amounted to just short of 30,000 yards.. Data on hand (letter November 9, 1948 from Ralph Mason) gives a production of 36,925 yards for the year 1947 between March of said year and the end of December.

The **Plaster Sand plant** mentioned in the green paper report consists of a 3 x 45 foot rotary furnace through which pumice is moved by a combination of rotary motion and suction. This furnace is fired with fuel oil. The plaster sand plant is equipped with its own rolls and combination vibration and rotary screens. Pumice is dead dried. The finish product is 12 mesh to 200 A.S.T.M. specification. The stages of crushing and screening and temperature ranges maintained are considered a trade secret as much time and expense went into research in connection with development of this plant. The plant has a capacity of 200 cubic feet but I neglected to ascertain if on an eight hour or twenty-four basis. About 10 percent of the pumice fed to this plant ends up in a very fine state of

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

subdivision which currently rates as waste material. A sample of this material was secured for test purposes with the suggestion that experiments be made to determine whether or not it might posses properties rendering it suitable for pottery glazing or as a carrier for spray type insecticides. In this connection reference is made to a letter to Libbey, August 18, 1949.

* * * * * * *

Report by: N. S. Wagner, August 19, 1949
Informants: Mr. & Mrs. Sleeper, Ralph Mason and others.

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland 5, Oregon

Pumice Engineering Company (pumice)

Unclassified District
Deschutes County

Owner-Operator: Merle Sleeper
Pumice Engineering Company
Box 808, Bend, Oregon

Location: Two working pits, the VanMetre and the Conlee, both situated close together directly south and southeast of Bend respectively. The VanMetre pit was formerly operated by Dillon L. Moore of the Pum Brick Tile Company. The location is T 18 S; R 12 E; Section 7 & 8. The Conlee pit is part of a two thousand acre tract in T 18 S; R 12 E; portions of sections 1, 2, 11 and 12.

History: This company began operations in March 1947. The Dillon Moore pit was acquired in October 1947 when the Pum-Brick Tile Company was dissolved.

General: Mining is done by 3/4 yard Buckeye shovels which load direct to trucks for haulage to the processing plant situated on the railroad in the Industrial District of Bend. The shovel is preferred by this operator on the grounds that (1) a better (less fractured and more uniform) pit run plant feed is secured by means of vertical cuts up the face; (2) less difficulty in digging is experienced during the winter months due to the maintainence of vertical faces and the consequent need of stripping only small areas of overburden at a time. Dozers are used for stripping and the practice employed is to doze overburden into the old pit.

For a description of the occurrence as exposed by the VanMetre pit reference is made to the report entitled Pum-Brick Tile Company, N. S. Wagner, February 1947. The Conlee pit was not visited but is understood to be similar to the VanMetre occurrence. Overburden reportedly varies from three to 30 feet and the pumice from fifteen to twenty-six.

Products put out by this company include a monolithic aggregate from 5/8 to plus 3/16 mesh; clean segregated and sized aggregate to consumer's specifications; a block aggregate blende and a pumice plaster sand under the trade name of Therm-O-Lite.

Aggregate processing is accomplished by means of rolls and vibrating screens, the various grades being putout by manipulation of screen sizes and screening-crushing stages. The plaster sand is treated in a separate plant in which it is crushed, screened, dried to a dead dry and sacked. Details regarding the mechanics of the process have been with held from publication at the owner's request. This plaster sand phase of production was commenced during March 1949. Aggregate is sold for $1.60 per yard F.O.B., loaded. The price of plaster sand is $0.66 per 95 pound sack, ((about 4 cubic feet).

Shipments are made 95 percent by rail with the largest market area being the State of Washington. Distant points reached by this producer include Vancouver, B. C. and Sacramento, California.

* * ** *

Report by: N. S. Wagner
Date of Exam: August 1, 1949
Date of report: August 17, 1949
Informant: Mr. And Mrs. Sleeper