

March 28, 1941

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

KLAMATH CONCRETE PIPE COMPANY

KLAMATH COUNTY

Owner: Same; R. C. Groesbeck, president; E. H. Balsiger, vice-president;
F. R. Hamblet, secretary-treasurer and manager.

Location: Plant is located in Klamath Falls. Sand pit is located at Bolam, Calif., where it is washed. Pumice pit is at Glass Mountain, California.

Area: Pumice, - 3 placer claims.

Equipment: For the manufacture of pumice products: Rolls, 14 inch; hammer mill; Crushed pumice is elevated to a vibrating screen which separates minus 1/8-inch as fines and plus 1/8-inch as coarse, aggregate. Screened pumice is stored in bunkers from which it is drawn, mixed, and hoisted to a 9-foot mixer. Water is added to make a stiff batch. Mix goes to vibrating molds, and then to an air-dryer. Pumice blocks weigh about 60 percent as much as concrete blocks of equivalent size.

Products: Pumice brick and building tile of various sizes and shapes demanded by the building trades. Concrete pipe, irrigation pipe, culvert pipe, and sewer pipe, (concrete) are produced. Four, six and eight-inch pumice drain tile, pier blocks, chimney blocks, coping blocks, etc., (pumice) are also produced.

Informant: F. R. Hamblet and Ray C. Treasher, 3/23/41
Report by: RCT 3/23/41

March 23rd, 1941.

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KLAMATH CONCRETE PIPE CO.

KLAMATH COUNTY

The manager and principal stockholder, Mr. F. R. Hamblet, wished to have an opportunity to approve the formal report before it is submitted, so I've forwarded a copy of it to him for corrections. When it is returned I will send the formal report to the Portland office.

Products of the plant are entirely pumice materials except the larger sizes of concrete pipe. In addition to the regular brick for building purposes, building tile sizes include (all measurements in inches):

4x4x12; 4x6x12; 4x8x12; 4x8x14; with the 6" and 8" sizes also in round corners, and these same size proportions in half blocks.

6x6x12; 6x8x12; 6x8x14; same as above.

4; 6; 8 inch drain tile.

The pumice is screened to minus 1/8-inch for "fines" and plus 1/8-inch for coarse aggregate. These are mixed in the proportion of 60% fines and 40% coarse, with cement in the proportion of one of cement to seven of pumice. Water only is added (see Silica Brick & Tile Co., Chemult, report for "secret solution") and the amount of water is determined by the operator who becomes experienced in adding the proper amount. The mixture is molded on vibrating molds, producing a more dense and firm brick than the Chemult outfit. The bricks and blocks are air dried.

The Klamath Brick & Tile Co., are not in sympathy with the method used by this Company; stories are rife about the failure of the pumice brick to withstand crushing strengths. Hamblet says only one wall in one building has partially failed and that the failure was occasioned by poor foundation rather than poor brick. He further states that several buildings including an apartment house have been built of this material and that it is standing well.

The Company did have some trouble at first but these troubles have been ironed out. Hamblet feels that he has done quite a bit of missionary work and experimental work and is quite insistent that no details of his process be divulged so that others can profit by his experience and "cut his throat".

The pumice comes from Glass Mountain, California, and is moved 75 miles by truck to Klamath Falls for processing. Klamath Falls residents are employed at the Glass Mtn. pit, and the entire operation is financed with Oregon money, and the entire payroll is Oregon held.

I believe that this operation is worthy of consideration and any assistance we can give in assisting in publicizing the product. I further believe that there might be a place for this sort of material in partition walls in the new State office and hospital buildings. PLEASE NOTE.

Ray C. Treasher,
Field Geologist,
March 23rd, 1941.

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KLAMATH BRICK & TILE COMPANY

Klamath County.

(This report is listed as CONFIDENTIAL as their is considerable rivalry between this plant, the Silica Brick at Chemult and the Concrete Pipe Co. at K. F., -- report for a mines catalog will be made when such a report is needed, and approved by them).

Owners: Same; Ralph Smith, manager; Wendell Smith, office manager; "Bill" Smith in charge of the plant.

Location: North city limits of Klamath Falls.

Area: Not given

Equipment: Not gotten in detail. Plant is equipped to turn out common and building brick, building tile, and drain tile.

Source of Material: Material comes from pits on the property. It is stock piled and protected from the weather. It produces a not too hot grade of brick, usable only for the rougher ceramic brick needs.

The plant is experimenting with various clays. They are interested in a volcanic ash or tuff on their property that has considerable plasticity and shows some possibilities. Clay from Lakeview, probably an altered tuff, is being tried. Clay from a cinnabar property near Brownsboro, Jackson County, has been tried. Clay from Evans Creek, Jackson County, has been tried, but it is very poor. The Company is trying to locate clay that will permit them to enter the face brick and refractory brick field. They have also tried some of the siliceous material from the Dead Indian deposit, Jackson County. (See clay bulletin for further details of these Jackson Co. deposits)

The tuff on their Klamath Falls property has been used to make some tile which is lighter in weight than regular ceramic tile and has some good possibilities. The Evans Cr. clay produces a brick that goes to pieces when exposed to the weather.

They realize that brick and ceramic products are highly competitive and are rather critical of all "interlopers". They are convinced that the pumice brick are unsatisfactory, and argue against its use.

They fire their brick, partly in regular kilns, and partly in kilns built out of green brick. They seem to know their business and are trying to improve the quality of their product. I believe that we would be justified in helping them locate deposits and they are willing to cooperate with us in burning clays similar to our arrangement with Columbia Brick and Pacific Stoneware in Portland.

Ray C. Treasher,
Field Geologist,
March 22nd, 1941.