

SCHOLLS TILE COMPANY  
(drain and building tile)

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Washington County JEA

Old name: Groner-Rowell Company, previous to 1926.

Owners and operators: Jesse C. Snyder and son, Scholls.

Location: Just west of State Highway 210, about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile north of North Scholls, Washington County, in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 10, T. 2 S., R. 2 W. The plant and pit are just north of the Tualatin River. The plant is at an elevation of about 135 feet, and the floor of the pit is about 15 to 20 feet lower in elevation.

Area: 21 acres.

History, production, etc.: The plant was first established in 1902 under the name of Groner-Rowell Company, which was sold to Jesse C. Snyder in 1926, who has operated it since that time and recently has taken his son into partnership. During the 1946 season the plant produced 75,000 feet of drain tile and 6,000 feet of building tile. Pre-war production was about 500,000 feet per year.

Development: The clay pit has been excavated to a depth of from 15 to 20 feet in the terrace surface, over an area of about 6 acres.

Six men operate the plant.

Geology: The deposit is located on the lowermost, or floodplain terrace of the Tualatin River; the present bottom of the pit being within 4 feet of the permanent water level. The plant is on the second terrace, about 10 feet above the lower terrace, which has been slightly incised since late Pleistocene times by the meandering course of the Tualatin River. The clay in the pit face consists of about 6 feet of silty clay overlying an equal amount of cleaner clay. The two are mixed when mined. The deposit

probably originated as a transported clay, laid down during temporary ponding of the drainage, and may underlie a large portion of the wide and relatively flat terrace north of the river. Similar deposits undoubtedly could be found along the river between Scholls and Hillsboro to the north. Depth to bedrock, which consists of basalt outcropping both in Cooper Mountain to the north and Chehalem Mountain to the south, is unknown, but may be several hundred feet.

Equipment and practice: Clay was formerly loaded by fresno scraper and ramp into a small car, which was pulled by cable up the narrow gauge track 150 yards to the plant. Next season a small bulldozer *and a new trestle has been built to deliver the clay* will load the clay to an elevated bin and to a storage shed with a capacity of 1500 cubic yards of raw clay. This will permit winter operation of the plant.

Machinery in present operation consists of rolls, pug mill, and wire cutting machine, run by a 50 hp electric motor. New machinery is being installed to make tile from 3 to 13 inches in diameter, the larger 14 and 16-inch sizes will be made on the old machine.

The tile is transported from the machine to the 3-story drying houses (40 x 60 and 60 x 90 feet) by wheelbarrow and elevators, where it is air-dried from 10 days to a month. The drying space will handle enough tile for six kilns, that is from 45,000 to 75,000 tile (of 4-inch and 6-inch size).

After drying, the tile is moved by elevator and wheelbarrow and stacked ~~by hand~~ in two round kilns, about 20 feet in diameter, which have a collective capacity of 15,000 4-inch tile or 25,000 6-inch tile.

After loading and sealing, the kilns are fired through six <sup>openings</sup> ~~tuyeres~~ with wood for 24 hours, and oil-and-steam fired with heavy oil for ~~4 days~~ <sup>36 hours</sup>.

and then allowed to cool for 5 days. The oil is pumped to the burners from an 87-barrel storage tank by means of a steam operated oil pump, powered from a wood boiler. On an average, each kiln makes 2½ burns a month, and takes from 60 to 65 barrels of oil per burn.

Comments: Rising labor costs and price ceilings caused the shut-down of the plant during the war years, and a higher price for tile will be required in the future. Formerly 9 men operated the entire plant, but the addition of the <sup>tractor and scraper</sup> bulldozer will reduce the crew to 6 men.

Report by J. E. Allen

John Eliot Allen

December 3, 1946

John Eliot Allen

Dear sir:

Your report is very accurate. I made only two minor alterations.

Some time in the future we plan to install some heating equipment for drying tile. We have some steam pipes in our drying sheds but not enough to be very effective. Clay tile do not dry well during cold weather and a freezing temperature will ruin freshly made tile.

Yours very truly  
Scholls Tile Co.  
Jesse W. Snyder, partner