

TILLAMOOK CLAY WORKS
(brick and tile)

Tillamook County

Operator and owner:

Mr. R. G. Krebs, Route 2, Box 221, Tillamook, Oregon.

Location:

About 7 miles southeast of Tillamook, and 1 mile northeast of Highway 101 in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 10, T. 2 S., R. 9 W.

History and production:

The plant was built in June, 1913, by the father of the present operator, Mr. E. G. Krebs, and produced fairly steadily at the rate of 5 or 6 kilns per year until the last few years. The present kiln was built in 1937, previous to that time open or clamp kilns were used. The plant did not operate in 1945, but 5 kilns of 4-inch drain tile were burned in 1946, a total of 95,000 tile. No brick or building tile was produced.

Development and geology:

The plant is located on a low terraced divide between the Trask and Tillamook Rivers, at an elevation of about 80 feet. The clay, as exposed in the pit which covers about 1 acre and is mined to a depth of 12 feet, shows the following section:

Sod	$\frac{1}{2}$ foot
Yellow clay	1-2 feet
Gray clay	1-2 "
Blue clay	4-5 "
Gravel	Below 10 feet

The clay contains numerous small weathered rock particles, and has a very high drying shrinkage.

Equipment and process:

An overhead tramway with bucket comes directly from the pit to a bin above the pug mill. The clay is not otherwise treated before going to the extruder. The two-story building contains both machine room, bins, and dry space, with elevators. The mill is powered with a gas engine. An old steam

plant is no longer used. Tile is transported by wheelbarrow. *Clay is now dug with special Rotary digger - powered with electric motor*

The single circular down-draft kiln is 23 feet in diameter, and can be wood-fired at a rate of about 1 kiln per month. Due to the high shrinkage of the clay, it takes from 4½ to 5 days to "water smoke" and 1½ days to burn. Capacity of the kiln is 19,000 four-inch tile. Two men operate the plant.

Report by: John Eliot Allen
March 4, 1947