TRANSITE PIPE

1913 Patents on asbestos-cement pipe granted in Italy. Asbestos, October 1942.

1915 Manufacture of asbestos-cement pipe by Eternit Pietra Artificiale, S. A. began in Genoa, Italy. Asbestos, October 1942.

1929 Johns-Manville announced acquisition of rights to manufacture and sell a seamless pipe of asbestos and cement. JM Circle, April 1929.

Machinery for the manufacture of pipe was designed and built in Italy. Two complete units, with a capacity of two million feet of pipe per year, to be installed at Waukegan. Asbestos, April 1929.

A. F. Miller, Waukegan plant engineer sent to Italy to study manufacturing techniques and to bring back machinery for making asbestos-cement pipe. During his stay in Europe, he met Tony Bartola who returned with him to Waukegan to put the first asbestos-cement pipe installation into operation at a cost at that time of $89,000. Jayemmer, August 1953.

On September 29, 1929 the first length of Transite pipe was manufactured in the United States. Jayemmer, August 1953.(cf. next item)

On November 4, 1929 Transite pipe made its first appearance at Waukegan Plant. (photo) News Pictorial, November 1959.

Pipe manufactured in five general classes, one class of light weight designed for flue piping and exhaust stacks, and four pressure classes to carry liquids at working pressures of from 40 to 225 pounds per square inch. Asbestos, October 1929.

The original Transite Pipe Building at Waukegan contained 56,000 square feet of floor space. Jayemmer, May 1950.

1930 Beginning of production of Transite pipe. This business was to grow until [illegible] 1940 it would yield the largest sales of any Johns-Manville product. Some few sales had been made of imported pipe, but in this year the first mach[illegible] was installed at Waukegan. Yet there was much to do to adapt the pipe to more exacting requirements of users in this country, besides which, the [illegible] duction of a type of pipe so completely different from conventional metal [illegible] was to prove a labor of considerable magnitude. In 1930 sales of Transite pipe amounted to only $10,000. Not until 1933 would they reach even $100,000. With recovery from the depression, however, they were to grow lustily, reaching $1 million in 1936, $2 million two years later, and adding another $1 million in each of the succeeding two years. Meanwhile additional machines were to be installed and production extended to Manville and, later, to a new plant in California. At the advent of the war, with its urgent requirement of such material, Transite pipe sales were to take further great strides reaching $8 millic in 1941 and nearly $10 million in 1942. There is a strong probability that a portion of the war-year increase represented no more than a normal trend, resumption of which might be expected at the end of the war. Progress Report, 1929-44, p. 25.

1931 On July 23, the Transite Pipe Department was organized under Mr. G. A. Niool. In October organized as a regular commodity department. Brief Outline of JM History 1858-1931. pp. 92-3.

1934 Agency contract with Fibre Conduit Company terminated. Steady improvement in the product of the Transite pipe machines now afforded the assurance that they would produce a superior type of conduit. The slowness of recovery in heavy construction was to defer the creation of a large market for some years but during the war period conduit was to come into its own, with sales of $1½ million in 1943. Progress Report 1929-44, p. 43.

1935 Steam curing of Transite pipe started late in 1935. 1936 first full year of steam curing. R. Barbehenn's Memo. April 1, 1949.

Waukegan Transite pipe facilities increased at cost of $275,000. Progress Report 1929-44, p. 45.

Capacity of Waukegan Transite pipe plant recently doubled. Power Specialist, November-December 1935. p. 18.

1936 Transite pipe building with one small and two large machines erected at Manville at a cost of $650,000. Progress Report 1929-44, p. 47.

Marrero Plant begun and completed within the year at a cost of $675,000. Progress Report 1929-44, p. 47. (Pipe manufacture at Marrero began in 1947.)

1937 Ground broken for Watson Plant for the manufacture of Transite pipe and rock wool to be completed the following year at a cost of over $1 million. Progress Report 1929-44, p. 51 News Pictorial, May 1941.

Underwriters' Laboratories approve Transite Pressure Pipe. Sales Bulletin 61.5-38 March 10, 1937.

1938 Watson unit placed in operation in early part of October turning out all classifications and sizes of Transite water and sewer pipe, electrical conduit, domestic flue pipe, and industrial vents and stacks. Asbestos, November 1938. p. 14. News Pictorial, February 1950. p. 4.

Announced that Transite Sewer Pipe now ready for sale. Sales Bulletin 61.5-54 February 25, 1938.

1946 Announced that asbestos-cement pipe will be manufactured at the new plant at Port Union, Ontario. Two buildings (one for pipe and the other for rock wool have been started.) Asbestos, October 1946. p. 36.

1947 Construction of new Transite pipe plant at Marrero completed and the first of three pipe machines put into operation. Annual Report 1947.

Substantial expansion of Transite pipe production facilities at Waukegan is part of an expansion program in the Pipe Division of the Company. This includes new plants at Stockton, California and Denison, Texas, and additions to facilities at JM plants in Marrero, Louisiana; Watson, California; and Manville, New Jersey. The expansion at Waukegan will double the production of building sewer pipe, electrical conduit, air conditioning and plumbing ducts. Major items include: additional 10 ft. pipe machine with moist heat oven; steam tanks; finishing and handling equipment; fibre warehouse and approximately 20,000 sq. ft. of building space. Jayemmer, Spring 1947. p. 8.

1948 Watson's capacity doubled by addition of 80,000 sq. ft. of space to permit annual production of 25,000 tons of Transite pipe and 15 million square feet of rock wool. News Pictorial, February 1950. p. 4.

1952 Watson - the shipment of 5,461 tons of Transite pipe in one month is more pipe than this or any other JM plant ever shipped in a month. News Pictorial, November 1952.

1953 New facilities for manufacture of Transite pipe at Toronto completed. Annual Report 1953.

Ring-Tite coupling announced. Asbestos, November 1953. p. 26.

1955 New steam cure tank is one of the largest pieces of equipment ever moved into the Transite Pipe Department at Manville. Asbestos, June 1955.

1956 Announced site for new Transite pipe plant near Stockton, California. Chairman's Letter, February 29, 1956.

Announced plans for construction of Transite pipe plant north of Denison, Texas. Chairman's Letter, August 21, 1956.

New pipe machine installed at Manville. News Pictorial, July 1956. p. 12.

1957 November 4 saw first lead of Transite pipe leave new Stockton Plant. News Pictoria December 1957.

New fibre storage building is part of the Pipe Plant expansion program and will provide an additional 9,000 square feet of fiber storage. Jayemmer, August-September 1957. p. 12.

1958 On June 20, 1958 Johns-Manville opened the first continuous process asbestos-cement pipe plant in the United States at Denison, Texas. Press Release. Asbestos, September 1958. p. 2. (The new plant utilizes the latest production techniques based on manufacturing experience dating back to 1904 when Johns-Manville first introduced Transite asbestos-cement in flat sheets, from 1921 when it was first fabricated in corrugated form and from 1929 when Transite asbestos-cement was first produced in tubular or cylindrical shape.)

1959 Underdrain pipe (perforated pipe to drain sub-surface water) introduced to meet demands for growing highway program, as well as for construction of airports, industrial sites, farm drainage systems and other similar types of earth preparatic operations. Annual Report 1959. Pipe Division Bulletin PD 90, July 7, 1959.

"Priceless Water" Program inaugurated. Annual Reports 1959 and 1960.

1960 Johns-Manville sold to the Flintkote Company the technical assistance required to build and operate the facilities for the manufacture of asbestos-cement pipe. Annual Report 1960.

Irrigation pipe redesigned for better service. Size range of air duct increased to meet requirements of commercial and industrial construction fields. Annual Report 1960.

1961 New epoxy-lined Transite pipe introduced. Annual Report 1961.

New Ductite coupling demonstrated. News Pictorial October 1961. p. 15.

1962 Further manufacturing capacity for epoxy-lined pipe installed at Marrero and Long Beach. Annual Report 1962.

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