

FILE NAME: Keene (KNE)

DATE: January 24, 1989

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Stevens

Disposition of E.R. Stevens 1/24/89

- 59 ret. Keene Bldg. Prod. Div., has testified for Keene, still gets pension
60 grad. MIT in 1928 - mech. eng. #2500/yr
went to work for J-M at Manville in 1928
- 63 left J-M for E.P. as a salesman, mgr. of Chicago ops. 1933
- 65 E.P. made mineral wool blankets good up to 1200°; left for B-H in 1937
- 65-66 left E.P. for Baldwin Hill, became VP sales until retirement (from Keene)
he acquired a 25% interest in BH, became Exec VP in 1950, Pres. in 1959
- 67 retired Nov. 1968
- 68 BH made no asb. insulation in 1937, all mineral wool.
Asb. added to an insulating cement they made in 1928-39, BH #1
BH acquired Therminsol ~1940 in Kalamazoo, to make Monoblock
- 70 Western Rockwool, Huntington, W, acquired next (non-asb.)
- 71 Elbert & BH merged in 1959
- 74 In 1968 Stevens became a consultant to US Mineral Prod. in NY
He formed Insulation Industries in 1978, still going - sells insul. cements
- 76 Asb. used in insulation for resistance to deterioration and "hinge" action
- 78 describes insulation products technology
- 83 A substituted by adding mineral fiber & substituting type of clays
This could have been done in the 1950's.
- 84 The A-Free prod. worked just as well as the Asb. cement
- 85 Super Powerhouse Cement intro. in 1943, a finishing cement just incl. min. wool
(asb. in short supply, went)
- 93 SP was a better product than conventional asb. insulating cement
- 94 SP sold to US Navy had to have some asbestos (spics), but was no better
(169 - never understood by USN re: A)
- 97 mineral wool blanket had better insulating value than 85% magnesia
but it was more difficult to apply
- 99 fiberglass was better than 85% Mag. in thermal cond. and density
- 100-101 Monoblock sold 1940-1968 (or later) as substitute for 85% Mag.
- 148, 102 small amt. of asb. put in as sales (gimmick) - a mistake to have used A
- 103 Monoblock cut easier than 85% Mag.
- 106 BEH calcium silicate was called Therminsol (1959-), as better than Monoblock
- 155 Stevens attended N.A.S. conf. in 1968, first heard of A's is
- 160 first Keene warning labels
- 166 Asb. hard to replace because it imparted strength to products
- 167 Asb. product sales a small percentage prior to merger w/ Elbert
- 172 Asb. use in insul. cement a sales gimmick (N.A. for cal. silicate & magnesia)
- 188 relied for info on Cadwalader, Weller & Sherman + Taft, 7/1/88
- 190 mentions National Mineral Assoc. N.A.S. - 1/24/89

- 192 He says no one from BEN attended the WYPS mty in 1964, he attended some other mty w/ Silidoff in 1964 and heard of preliminary findings - "no immediate problem." At Playa Hotel. A meeting of the Association, incl. J.M. OCF,
- 193 JS told them of 8 insulators w/ deteriorating lung conditions
- 194 If your granddaughter was about to use a product that was dangerous, would you rather see on the product the word caution or danger? A. I refuse to answer the question.