

R 15183

Bestwall Gypsum Company

FOR PACLI LAB.

DATE November 25, 1958 FROM Sigurd
(Dictated 11-22-58)

OFFICE

ATTENTION OF Mr. C. G. Shuttleworth

SUBJECT LIGHT ACOUSTICAL PLASTER

ANSWERING YOURS

DICTATED BY Mr. J. S. Jorgensen - lb

cc: Mr. O. F. Grieve - Paoli
Mr. E. L. Flinn - Sigurd

On November 17, 18, and 19th I was in Portland and Salem, Oregon, primarily to see the application of our Bestwall Light Acoustical Plaster on the State Mental Hospital Job in Salem.

Plastering contractors on the job are Billings & Cronn of Portland. (Mr. Cronn is president of the Northwest Plaster Bureau.) Two different buildings and two different crews were involved on this job. One small building, approximately 460 yards was nearly completed when I arrived and the salesman told me they had had an assortment of complaints. (These crews have used Acoustical Plaster before, Kilnoise, La Habralite, etc., but no Acoustical Plaster of this type.)

Acoustical Plaster was applied over a dry brown coat of gypsum plaster on metal lath. Material was applied with a gun and followed with rod and darby. Material had worked well under the tools behind the gun. From what information I could gather, they apparently had had some slight fissuring so they experimented a little by spraying some of the plaster base coat before application of the acoustical plaster. This had resulted in several blisters (4 to 6" in) with a resultant cracks as the blister opened up. This was on Monday and the acoustical had been applied the preceeding Thursday. No dropouts had occurred and they were able to trowel these blisters back in place and fill in the cracks. The finish coat was being applied in some of the rooms which resulted in a beautiful job. Fissuring of the acoustical base coat was very slight in any of the rooms.

The complaints expressed by the foreman, Mike Smith was that they had to spend too much time troweling the base coat and filling the fissures before the finish coat could be applied. (They expected a smooth base coat, no fissuring before they applied the finish coat.) They wouldn't agree that slight fissures would be adequately covered by the finish coat. Mr. Smith also maintained that they had had 50% shrinkage of the base coat but we were not able to confirm this as no such indication of shrinkage was apparent.

Mr. Cronn, the plastering contractor came out to the job while we were there and in the ensuing discussion indicated that they might have been over sold on the material. They were expecting a strictly two coat operation with no fuss or muss and also indicated that they might expect some extra compensation laborwise on the job.

Mr. Cronn expressed satisfaction with the coverage however, which by rough estimate was about 7½ yards per bag for the finished job. We returned to the job Tuesday morning which was by then about 90% finished. The job looked exceptionally good at that time. Finish coat had been applied at a rather thick consistency, resulting in a very light stipple. No fissuring was apparent anywhere on the job at that time.

The other job was a two story structure, rooms about 20 feet wide by 80 feet long, ceilings about 14' high. Base coat was cinder block covered with metal lath and plaster brown coat. One large heating duct in the center of the ceiling ran lengthwise of the room. Acoustical base coat was machine applied, 1/2" thick, rodded and darbied. The foreman, Mr. Bjorkman, complained that the acoustical plaster didn't take up fast enough on the base coat.

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They had to wait at least 30 minutes before darbying and said it was still too wet to do a good job. (They were using 60 to 65 quarts of water per 40 lb. bag, mixing a minimum of 5 minutes - All cinder block walls had been covered with Vis Queen from the ceiling to the floor.)

Acoustical base coat had been applied on two of the rooms Friday, November 14th. When we saw them the afternoon of the 17th fissures up to 1 1/2 to 2 inches were present. Heat was on in the building, though they said it had not been on over the weekend. It could be noted that some of the fissures were small blisters which had opened up. Mr. Bjorkman, at our request obtained a ladder and with a trowel went over a small area to see how the fissures would close up under the trowel. The acoustical base coat was stiff enough at this time that it would drag under the trowel in spots. We inspected a 3rd room on which they had applied the acoustical base coat that morning. Base Coat had been rodged and darbed. Some blistering was evident, small ones ranging in size from 1/2" to 1 1/2" in diameter but not too numerous. Mr. Bjorkman was complaining about the extra time it was going to take to go back over the job troweling and skim coating the fissures and blisters before they could spray the finish. We suggested that they might apply the finish coat over one of the rooms done the previous week without troweling or skim coating the fissures to see if the finish coat would do an adequate job of covering the fissures. They didn't want to do this however, because they wanted to do all of the base coat in the building before they done any finishing. They estimated that this would take the remainder of the week. By that time, with all the heat they had on, the acoustical base in most of the rooms will be dry and they will not be able to close up the fissures by troweling. To get the smooth base coat they want it will be necessary that they apply skim cover coat. Here again they indicated that this was something they had not expected to have to do.

Our salesman, Mr. Meany, will follow this job and keep us advised.

To date we have had nothing but favorable reception on our acoustical plaster. This is the first job I have been on where this type of application was used so I do not know if our other jobs have been similar in nature and have been accepted as a characteristic of acoustical plaster or if the condition is caused by the inexperience of these men in using a material of this type. The base coats were as good as anything we made tests on this summer at Paoli.

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AMERICAN GYPSUM COMPANY

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