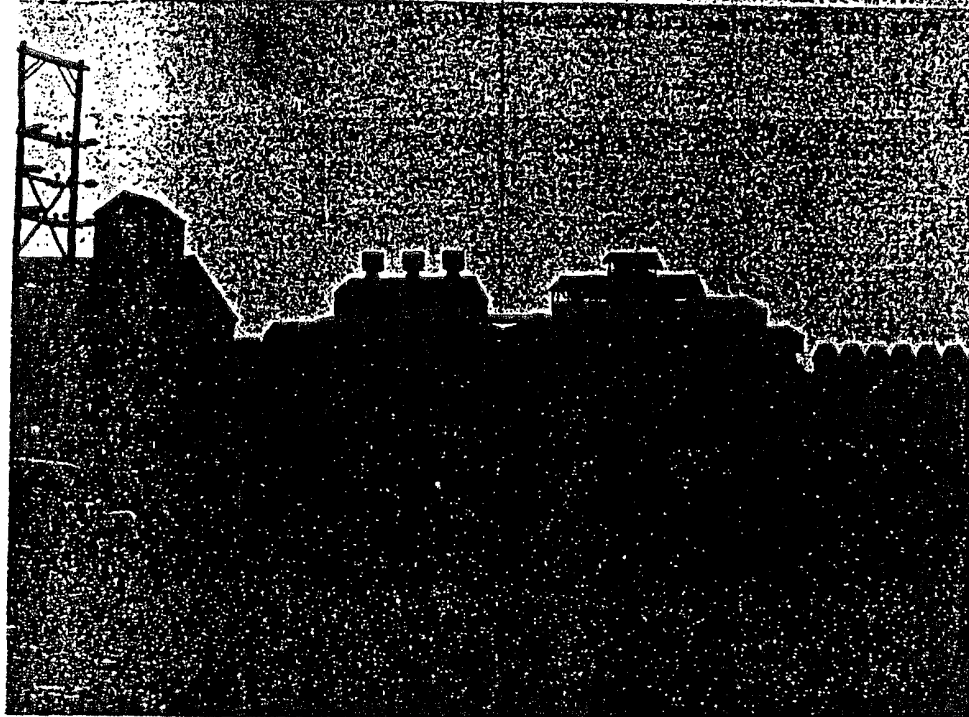


Ozark At Dusk Symbolizes Local Industry

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SYMBOLIC OF Coffeyville's industrial might is the Ozark Smelting and Mining Co. plant shown in silhouette against a setting winter sun. The plant is part of the Sherwin-Williams Paint Co. This picture was taken by Russell Hamlin. He, and other residents in the Coffeyville Memorial Hospital area, have been struck by the beauty of the Ozark structural forms at dusk.

Raw material comes in railroad r lots. The finished product can be calculated in microns. While nothing produced is used for human consumption, the quantities are measured in parts of a million rather than fractions of a percent.

There, in thumbnail, is the picture of the operation of Coffeyville's Ozark Smelting and Mining Co., which is a part of the vast Sherwin-Williams paint empire. To further increase the purity of the product, Ozark during the last year has installed new demineralization machinery making water used in the manufacturing process better than triple distilled.

Manufacture of paint isn't just a matter of tossing colors together as you would in a school art class. It is a combination of high-technical skills and processes; know-how and the most carefully selected materials. People who drive by the Ozark plant at regular intervals are conscious of the huge material piled up there ever changing forms.

This material falls into these classes:

Barites, which is the source

of barium sulphate. This is taken from strip mines, the most active of which in the Midwest are in Washington County, Mo., near St. Clair. It is mined in rock-like chunks imbedded in clay and is washed and sized before shipment. The material is also used as an oil well drilling mud component.

Zinc and lead concentrates. The Coffeyville plant turns to the Joplin area for this raw material.

Chat, which makes the furnace mixture porous enough for air passage; coal for its chemical reaction as well as its heat content; and natural gas and some sulphuric acid round out the list of needed materials for the Ozark operation.

Processing starts as a conventional smelting operation, but there is a switch along the line. In orthodox smelting, the metal comes off as vapor and is then condensed. In the Ozark operation, the vapor is mixed with air and oxidized so that the net result is an oxidized compound rather than elemental metal which is produced in smelting.

Along the line, solid zinc sulphate is taken out and sold to synthetic fiber manufacturers and to firms making glue, fungicides and

other products calling for this material. This provides the plant with a market outside of the paint manufacturing field.

The major objective, however, is to produce leaded zinc and lithopone—the stuff of which paint is made.

And the versatile star of the production line is the zinc concentrate. It is mixed with the lead concentrate to produce leaded zinc, and with the barites to get lithopone.

Paint itself is made up of the vehicle or liquid and the pigment or color. You must have the liquid in order to spread the paint, while the pigment determines the color and the covering properties of the mixture.

The Ozark plant concentrates on the production of white pigment—leaded zinc and the lithopone. Zinc oxides and lead compounds are combined in the leaded zinc to produce a paint for outside use. It gives color plus durability against sun and weather through a chemical reaction set up in its organic liquid vehicle. The pigment also tends to slow down the destruction of the sun and weather. Lithopone is used for interior

paints. It is the pigment best adapted to the types of vehicle used in modern inside paints and their decorative quality also is much enhanced.

Just as the solid zinc sulphate is taken off as a product, the pigment is also diverted commercially into lines other than paint manufacture. Ozark pigment customers also make rubber, shade cloth (for window blinds) and linoleum among other items.

The product from the Coffeyville plant goes to all corners of the world. Much of the export is for Sherwin-Williams overseas plants, but there are other export customers.