

At the time of Mr. Padgett's writings on Ozark Smelting & Mining Company's history, R. V. Brown was the local superintendent, the plant, as an auxiliary was still young, having at the time only two blocks of oxide furnaces, and, during his incumbency the only expansion in manufacture being the installation of the Lime-Sulfur plant, technical guidance for which came from Mr. Holton at Cleveland.

In 1911 Mr. Brown was called to Chicago and the responsibility of management became the duty of Mr. W. E. Corta. For the next few years there followed a period of profitable expansion, both in the materials production and technical refinement in the leaded-zinc oxide department. Throughout the years and up to the present time the handling of the plant personnel, selection and allocations of men and labor problems in all departments of this auxiliary has been under the able guidance of one general foreman, Mr. R. F. Fitzpatrick.

Technical guidance has varied through these years and for the most part, been a responsibility of the superintendent in charge. Time and experience in the paint manufacturer's field had established the necessity for low and controlled zinc sulfate content of our product, and, to make this possible, a washing and drying unit was built to maintain this control, operation beginning in 1912. This new unit was engineered by Mr. Macklind and fabricated through the supervision of Mr. Deak. The leaded-zinc oxide, washed and dried, continued to be an active department unit for several years, an additional dryer having been added in 1925, and, it was not until 1930 that other refinements in the pigment manufacture made it unnecessary to further operate.

The demand in the pigment trade for more and more of our excellent product, made it imperative that the factory be enlarged to satisfy the demand. Accordingly, Block "C" was built in 1915, and, to supply the necessary roasted ore for these additions, Cappeau kiln No. 1 was built and put into operation the following year. The multiple hearth McDougall kilns, inadequate in tonnage, costly to operate and quite old and expensively maintained, were dismantled and Cappeau No. 2 kiln built, operation beginning in 1918.

In 1916, a fire, unknown in origin, destroyed the Lime-Sulphur department. Subsequent production of this insecticide was established elsewhere in the East.

Throughout the years, the trend of the paint formulator was toward leaded-zinc oxide having appreciable amounts of basic lead sulfate, and, to satisfy these demands and to simultaneously reduce the formation of zinc sulfate in our product, a gradual evaluation of furnace design ensued.

Even before the erection of block "C", in 1915, the long, massive brick trails leading from the original furnace installations were dismantled, this to lessen the zinc sulfate produced, to more quickly dissipate the heat, to favor the formation of basic lead sulfate and to extend the operative period of the furnaces, which heretofore had been shortened by the erosive action of lead compounds on the brick work of the furnaces.

The Osark Smelting & Mining Co.
Magdalena, New Mexico

1222

Smelter Department
Coffeyville, Kans.

December 28, 1935

Dec. 28
1899

38 YEARS IN SERVICE

Dec. 28
1935

PREFACE

Recently while rummaging through some of my old papers, I found the following diary, written from 1897 to 1909 inclusive, covering the history of what later became the present Osark Smelting & Mining Co.

These notes have been misplaced for many years. For fear they might be lost again and inasmuch as I am the only one now with the Sherwin-Williams Company that started with the original Zinc Oxide Company — the only one, therefore, that is in a position to write the early history of this business — I shall endeavor to do so, thinking that perhaps it may be of interest to some who are now with the Company.

However, to keep the article from being too voluminous and due to the fact that this writer has been so closely identified with the progress of the business — 1897 to 1909, including its many "ups" and "downs" — I feel there would be so many I's in the story that it would sound as though I were either very much conceited or merely trying to advertise myself; therefore, I am omitting many, many of the more or less interesting details.

From 1897 to 1935 is quite a span of years in anybody's language; nevertheless, this article brings back to my mind quite vividly the many things that have taken place as mentioned in the narrative.

It will be noticed that the narrative brings the story down only to 1909. However, it is my present intention to bring it on down to date at some future time. Just when depends largely on circumstances over which I have no control.

/s/ E. B. Padgett

EBP:rk

N15900.01