

The RUBENOLD Co.  
New York, N. Y.

February 5, 1964  
Dict. February 4

TO: Messrs. Bartoli - Davis - Dent - Dermody - Frohman - Hall - Limerick - Milstein-  
O'Leary - Van Akin

MINUTES  
NEW PRODUCTS STEERING COMMITTEE  
BUILDING & INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS DIVISION  
MEETING - FEBRUARY 3, 1964

Subject committee met at the New York Office on February 3, 1964. In attendance were:

Members

F. K. Sweeney, Chairman  
D. A. Davis  
T. A. Dent  
J. G. Hall  
C. T. Limerick

Guests

W. J. Van Akin  
W. G. Neel

PRODUCT DISCUSSION

(A) - INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS DIVISION

1. Calsilite

DuPont's accelerated tests for chloride cracking of stainless steel pipe insulated with calcium silicate (Calsilite), with inhibitor added, indicated a breakdown of all calcium silicate products, including Johns-Manville's Thermobestos and Owens-Corning's Kaylo. The accelerated tests are considered to have been overly severe. Our Research people and W. G. Neel and/or R. W. Henry will be present at DuPont's laboratory next week to discuss further test procedure. It was decided that we would proceed no further with the development of the equipment or manually adding any inhibitor until after the DuPont meeting.

2. Neoprene Saturated Asbestos Felt

Warrington Mills have run two rolls of our Neoprene Saturated Asbestos Felt and satisfactory performance was indicated. The person who made the test runs died and the new Superintendent prefers to run the remaining roll before he will make any comment. Research is following for the report on the last roll.

3. Resin Saturated Organic Felt

Considering the limitations of our Gloucester Plant, there is serious question on whether we can produce a Resin Saturated Organic Felt without a substantial outlay for additional equipment. W. J. Van Akin is of the opinion that our

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system of adding the resin, by saturating with an aqueous resin solution after the felt is partially dried, is probably inherently too expensive to ever be competitive with the patented system of adding the resin at the beaters. It is felt, however, that in consideration of the very major investment we have in felt mills, we should continue research on possible products our mills could produce.

To accelerate the progress of this research and development work on felt, it is recommended that we add a fulltime technician at Bound Brook to coordinate the work at the laboratory with that done at the Gloucester Plant by Mr. Flood, Process Engineer, who does not have sufficient time for research and development work. D. A. Davis will submit a recommendation for the hiring of such a technician.

The Organic Felt Program will also require an additional MRA of \$5,000. The primary objectives of this program are:

- (a) - To determine the commercial feasibility of developing a Resin Saturated Felt in competition with Congoleum's product.
- (b) - To determine the characteristics available as a result of treating dry felt with various additives. The end uses of such felts should not be considered as confined to roofing and flooring usage.
- (c) - To develop improvements in roofing felt from a cost or quality standpoint.

#### 4. Millboard

The only project in the hands of Research & Development at the present time is the adaptation of Millboard for moulded brake linings. Our product is in the hands of Thermoid. R. W. Henry is the sales contact and is following Thermoid for a report on the acceptability of the samples we submitted. R. W. Henry should find out from our Automotive Dept. the names of other manufacturers of brake linings.

#### 5. Link Belt Co. Bio Plates

This is a development by the Link Belt Co. for community sewerage disposal units. A-C sheets are used as panels in the effluence tanks to offer surface for bacterial growth which is an important factor in the sewerage disposal process. H. E. Hutten's department has made the initial contact with this account and it is felt that H. R. Kuhlken and D. A. Davis (or somebody assigned by Mr. Davis) should visit the Link Belt plant at Kolmar, Pa. at a very early date to inspect the process and develop a recommendation on what we can offer in the way of asbestos-cement sheets. Utility Corrugated presents a good possibility because more surface is presented.

#### 6. Sound Deadening Membrane

Research is still awaiting report from the Detroit testing laboratory that is developing primary data upon which we can base further development. W. J. Van Albin mentioned that the fire resistant characteristics of anything we developed would be very important because of its probable application on fireproof structures. D. A. Davis will confer with Gordon Haseell on the progress being made with door manufacturers and prefabricators on the use of a high density Sound Deadening Membrane.

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7. Nursery Pots

It was agreed that we would not make any attempt to fabricate a disposable nursery pot as recommended in J. W. Church's letter of January 17th. We would, however, send Mr. Church samples of our various Resin and Neoprene Saturated Felts as well as adaptable Saturated Felt. D.A. Davis will supply Mr. Bettoli with the samples to be submitted so that Mr. Bettoli can answer Mr. Church's letter.

(E) - BUILDING PRODUCTS DIVISION

1. Fire-Rated Gypsum Board

It was concluded that we should initiate the manufacture of Fire-Rated Gypsum Board, attempting to obtain a license from U.S.G., National Gypsum or Bestwall Certain-teed, whichever process would be best adapted to our ore and equipment. If it is found that we can produce under a license arrangement without being subject to the \$15,000 Underwriters' testing requirement, that would be the course we would follow.

R. R. Helges and D. A. Davis, through contact with Underwriters' Laboratories representatives and our competitors holding patents on Fire-Rated Board, will determine what approach we will take.

*edit*  
We will continue to try to develop a board of our own composition which will not fall within the patent claims of others and which we feel reasonably sure will qualify for the Underwriters' label. If this is accomplished and the volume justifies it, a recommendation will be made at that time for Underwriters' testing.

2. Low-Density Asbestos-Cement Clapboard

J. G. Hall indicated that the National Gypsum Co. is throwing its whole promotion on asbestos-cement to Woodrock, their new low density Clapboard. The conclusions of the A.C.P.A. field survey would indicate that this product overcomes most of the objections against A-C products and emphasizes the desirable characteristics. The board is 3/8" thick, 12" wide and 12' long. It is factory primed but not finished.

The product has been released on a marketing and research basis in Memphis, Tenn., and Mr. A. H. Fay of National Gypsum has indicated that the acceptance has been remarkably good. We are sending G. J. Garthwaite to Memphis to locate jobs and get as much preliminary information as he can about the handleability, application, appearance, etc., of the product.

D. A. Davis will make a test run of our low density version of A-C Clapboard within the next two weeks. J. G. Hall will determine from Mr. Fay if their Woodrock has any patented features and get the reference as well as a bundle of the product for our Research Laboratory.

The development of a non-brittle low density A-C Clapboard has #1 Research priority.

3. Class "B" Asphalt Shingle

A machine run of this product has passed the screening test. One more test run will be made today and then the release will be submitted to Underwriters' Laboratories for testing. It is anticipated that we will have Underwriters' Laboratories' clearance on the shingle by the end of February and we should be able to have Joliet in production by June or July. If it is determined to proceed with Bound Brook simultaneously, this plant could also have a Class "A" Shingle available at about the same time.

4. #207 Type Asbestos Roof Shingle

In response to continued requests from our Mobile District for an American Method type shingle, J. G. Hall requested that further consideration be given to the production of this type of shingle at Mobile to take care of the New Orleans market. Inherent limitations of our Hatschek process in producing such a shingle were explained. It was agreed that Research should not abandon an attempt to develop a competitive shingle of this type but it is considered in fifth or sixth place in priority. This matter is being brought to the attention of H. R. Kuhlken.

5. Rigid Vinyl Siding

D. A. Davis has been in touch with Goodrich, producer of Geon, the best presently known PV Resin for exterior use, and received some recommendations for further contacts on the working of this resin. The primary users are Sieberling Rubber Co. of Ohio who calender the U.S.G. sheet, and Navaco Co. of Dallas who are the foremost extruders of this plastic. A small extruder, Petro Plastics of Garwood, N. J., was also contacted and it was found that we could use their equipment on an experimental basis on an annual fee basis that would not be prohibitive. T. A. Dent suggested that we contact Chardon Rubber Co., Chardon, Ohio, who are primary extruders and who are making the base for our Floor Tile Division. T. A. Dent also suggested that D. A. Davis talk to Bird & Son to determine the possibility of using their extrusion equipment to produce experimental vinyl siding of our own design.

Our present attitude toward solid vinyl siding, or in fact any solid vinyl products, is a program to gain experience with the product, whether we use someone else's extrusion or calendering equipment or our own. We should carry on a parallel laboratory program to learn as much as possible about the handling and characteristics of vinyls.

Research & Development will need a man to follow through on this solid vinyl program with a background of chemistry. D.A.Davis will submit a recommendation for the hiring of such a man.

6. Simulated Cedar Shingle

Engineering is building a hopper to try to get the desired color effect as recommended by Taber Birren. J. G. Hall suggested the elimination of the wide slots in this shingle, substituting slits. It was agreed that this shingle should be made in a self-coaling shingle only.

FKS:FM

7. H. H. H. H. H.

F. K. SWEENEY  
Chairman

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