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February 25, 1947

Marion Howe, Picture Editor
299 Madison Avenue
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Howe:

Your letter of February 10 to our Mr. Lemperly has been referred to me for attention. Among many other duties I have made a study of our manufacturing processes and description of these for the benefit of our staff.

Your request for photographs of the Old Dutch process for making white lead is a little unfortunate in that we have discontinued the Old Dutch method in favor of Quick-process. However, after thorough search, I have been able to locate some pictures which will illustrate the Old Dutch method and which we take pleasure in enclosing herewith. We immerse these as follows:

Picture No. 1 - Handling pig lead preparatory to casting buckles.

2 - Buckle casting machine. The pigs of lead are melted into a kettle from which the molten lead flows into the casting machine.

3 - Close-up of buckle casting.

4 - Putting the buckles into the corroding jars. The individual buckles are placed into corroding jars in the bottom - of which is about an inch of diluted acetic acid. These jars are then piled up in the stack. In building up the stacks which are about 25 ft. sq. and 30 ft. high, about an inch or two layer of tan-bark is put on the floor upon which is placed a layer of pots filled with acetic acid and lead buckles. Above this then is placed a floor of boards. These boards

are covered with an inch or two layer of tanbark, thus providing a floor for the second tier of jars. The stack is built up in this way until the room is full. Proper ventilators equip each tier of buckles. These ventilators are used to regulate the temperature in the corroding stack through the entire period of corrosion. I believe you know it takes approximately 100 - 120 days for the lead buckles to corrode into lead carbonate.

5 - Shows the operators unloading a stack. Note the operator at the left is emptying a jar into the bucket, the empty jars being placed in the crate at the right of the metal bucket.

6 - Close-up of jars filled with corroded buckles. Unfortunately, we have no picture of the next process of passing the buckles between rolls which flatten out particles of uncorroded lead so that uncorroded material will be held back when passing through a screen into the slurry tank.

7 - Slurry tank. The corroded lead next passes to the slurry tank where it is washed with a considerable volume of water. From this point it passes on over screens of fine mesh to hold back all impurities permitting only the clean particles of lead carbonate to pass through.

Next, the slurry after screening, passes through into drying pans. Unfortunately, there are no pictures of these available.

8 - Lead grinding mill. The dried lumps of lead next pass through this grinding mill.

No picture is available of the powdered lead being mixed with oil for grinding into packages and sold as "lead in oil".

9 - Mill grinding lead with linseed oil.

Unfortunately, these pictures are not exactly what you request nor are they complete as to cover all stages of the process, but we trust you will find them useful.

Page 3.

If possible, when these have served your purpose, we shall be glad to have them returned as they are the only copies we have and I wish to put them to some further use.

We regret that there has been this delay in getting these to you but trust that although you may have passed the deadline, these may still be useful.

Very truly yours,

THE SHERWIN-WILLIAMS COMPANY

WRS:mr

W. E. Sieplein ..
Supervisor, Bid Sales Dept.

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