

C Columbia Brick and Tile Company, Columbia, Missouri, Records, 1907-1986, n.d.
3854 12.8 linear feet

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INTRODUCTION

Business, financial, and manufacturing records of the Edwards Brick and Tile Company, 1927-1930, the Edwards-Conley Brick and Tile Company, 1930-1946, and the Columbia Brick and Tile Company, 1947-1986. The collection covers such subjects as industrial health and safety, natural gas supply regulation, legislation, energy and environmental concerns and includes advertising literature, blueprints, correspondence, photographs, maps and plats, books, and miscellaneous material.

DONOR INFORMATION

The Columbia Brick and Tile Company Records were donated to the University of Missouri by J.P. Kennedy and his sister, Elizabeth L. Kennedy, on December 28, 1983 (Accession No. 4546). Additions to the records were made on November 11, 1987 (Accession No. 4812) and on December 2, 1987 (Accession No. 4818).

COMPANY HISTORY

The Edwards Brick and Tile Company was established in 1896 by W.E. Edwards. The plant, located at 2801 East Walnut in northeast Columbia, manufactured building brick and tile for use in residential, commercial, and institutional projects in Columbia, central Missouri, and out-of-state. The clay was mined and manufactured on location. Sanford Conley joined Edwards in the venture in 1930, and the plant became the Edwards-Conley Brick and Tile Company.

In 1945 Edwards sold his interest in the business to A. Burnett Coleman. In 1947, when Conley died unexpectedly, his widow, Eleanor, sold the family's interest to Hart Robnett. The name change to Columbia Brick and Tile came at this time. Fred Kennedy and William Powell bought the plant on August 15, 1950, and Robnett and Coleman offered their expertise on operations. Kennedy and Powell began the production of firebrick, introducing refractories.

When Fred Kennedy died in 1966, John "Jack" Kennedy, his son, continued in partnership with Powell. Richard Bridgeford was plant superintendant, and George LaRock, manager. In 1974 the plant changed ownership through the purchase and retirement of stock held by the Powell family. Kennedy implemented employee training programs, sought energy alternatives, promoted energy conservation, and encouraged student educational programs at quarry sites.

Inflation; cost increases in labor, materials, and gas prices; gas shortages and curtailments; and increases in federal regulations in the 1970s took their toll on the small business, and Kennedy and his sister Elizabeth sold the plant in 1985 with production ceasing at that time.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Columbia Brick and Tile Company Records consist of business, financial, production, and sales records; advertising literature for machinery, equipment and supplies;

correspondence; occupational and mine health and safety, Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Company, and Federal Power Commission materials; tax and employee records; contracts and labor agreements; blueprints; photographs, maps, printed materials, books, and miscellaneous material. Incomplete records of the Company's predecessor, the Edwards-Conley Brick and Tile Company, are included.

The papers are arranged into three series: **Edwards-Conley Brick and Tile Company Records, 1927-1946, n.d.**; **Columbia Brick and Tile Company Records, 1907-1986, n.d.**; and **Volumes**.

The **Edwards-Conley Brick and Tile Company Records** series is comprised of an estimate book, cash account books, day books, annual reports, burners reports, and materials on kilns. The records are incomplete for 1942-1944. Arrangement is chronological. There are also papers of the Edwards-Conley Brick and Tile Company in the next series.

The **Columbia Brick and Tile Company Records** series consists of record books, warehouse records, production records, customer accounts, overdue accounts and litigation, purchase orders, pricelists and sample books, inspection records, trucking records, a topical section, tax and employment records, correspondence, and miscellaneous material.

There are several gaps in the records with no sales summary books for 1952-1953, customer accounts for 1960, or purchase orders for 1965-1966. Customer accounts for 1958-1959 and 1973-1985 are incomplete. The records cover actual day-to-day plant operations, and document the manufacture of brick from shale to refractory, packaging and storage. Sales records document seven decades of building in Columbia and central Missouri. Arrangement is chronological for each record grouping.

The record books, which are primarily the financial records of the Company, consist of day books, annual reports, sales summaries, production and yard inventories, and financial statements. The warehouse records include correspondence; statements of property in storage; bank notes; legal documents; applications, receipts, and releases; diagrams and plats. The production records include yearly burner's reports for kilns #1-7. May 1956-April 1957 reports are grouped by kiln number. Reports for 1957-1962 are chronological. Forms change format in 1961, but the information recorded remains the same. Reports include kiln number, type of brick, setting and firing information, and number of cars produced. According to the reports, brick was not produced in kiln #2 until January 1960.

Customer accounts (itemized accounts for brick sales) are divided into two sections: 1947-1959, and 1961-1985. Arrangement is alphabetical within each section. The majority of accounts are dated 1961-1972. Accounts after 1972 are found only for the letters L-Z. Large accounts such as the University of Missouri are further arranged by job name or location. Accounts are primarily from Columbia and the central Missouri area. The towns of Fulton, Jefferson City, Boonville, Mexico, Moberly, and Marshall are well represented as are contractors and customers from throughout the state. Out-of-state accounts include Kansas, Illinois, Iowa, and a town house motel project in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Projects include college and university buildings, churches, hospitals, schools, and commercial and residential projects.

Overdue accounts and litigation include litigation against the Company; accounts; correspondence; memorandums; circuit and magistrate court documents from Boone, Cole, Cooper, Randolph and other counties; photographs and lab reports on face brick tests; printed materials on brick and tile construction, 1952-1961; and legal correspondence with Columbia,

Fayette, and Jefferson City attorneys. Buildings concerned include the Fulton State Hospital, a Jefferson City high school and church, and a University of Missouri School of Journalism addition.

Purchase orders for brick and related correspondence are arranged chronologically within each year. Customers include Columbia, Jefferson City, and Rolla contractors; a Kansas City construction company; the University of Missouri; lumber companies; the cities of Columbia, Boonville, Fulton, and Mexico; Still Hospital, Jefferson City; Kemper Military Academy, Boonville; and the Moberly Prison. Job sites include Boonville, California, Centralia, Columbia, Jefferson City, Mexico, St. Elizabeth, Westphalia, and Vienna.

Price lists and illustrated sample books are for brick, block, tile, and other clay products from Missouri and out-of-state brick companies. Correspondence and notices concern Panhandle Eastern gas price increases and cost increases in energy, labor, materials, chemical products, fuel, rubber, steel, and machinery parts. An energy alternatives pamphlet; a Columbia Contractors' Association notice to Construction and General Laborers' Local Number 955; and a labor agreement between Midland Brick and Tile Company and United Brick and Clay Workers Local No. 990, Chillicothe, are also in this section.

Inspection records are from the Columbia Health Department and Fire Department. Trucking records include hauling time cards, truck leases, bills of lading, truck registration certificates, inspection reports, and repair bills and receipts for trucks and equipment.

The topical section consists of material on machinery, equipment and supplies; the Missouri Limestone Producers Association; occupational health and safety; and the Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Company. Machinery, equipment and supplies material includes advertising literature, catalogs, instruction and parts manuals, correspondence, purchase orders and receipts. Office equipment and supplies records are included. Arrangement is alphabetical by product; if several companies are represented, the arrangement is then alphabetical under the name of the company supplying the product. The Missouri Limestone Producers' Association material includes a journal; legislative reports; newsletters, 1978-1979; course lessons plans on mine safety; and miscellaneous material. Occupational health and safety includes training programs for miners; Missouri Department of Natural Resources memos on use of substitute lands and land reclamation; training certificates of Columbia Brick and Tile employees; Kennedy's correspondence and memorandum files concerning the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act; company violations; the U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA); inspections; noise control items; labor education projects and seminars sponsored by the Missouri Division of Mental Health and the University of Missouri Extension Division; and printed materials from MSHA, OSHA, and the Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. Correspondents include U.S. Congressmen Jack Danforth, Richard Ichord, and Tom Eagleton; and the Brick Institute of America.

The Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Company section concerns regulatory affairs of the Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Company, natural gas supplies, and the effect of shortages, curtailments, price increases, and federal legislation of the 1970s on industry, small businesses in general and the Columbia Brick and Tile Company in particular. Papers include Columbia Brick and Tile Company records of gas curtailments and usage, gas and storage contracts, a 1974 report to the Board of Directors, correspondence, and papers of appeal before the Federal Power

Commission; Federal Power Commission, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and Missouri Utilities Company materials; and miscellaneous material on alternative fuels, brick manufacture, and energy conservation. The majority of papers cover the 1970s with only gas contracts for the dates 1936, 1938, 1939, 1942, and 1947. Correspondence dates from 1955-1985. Notable correspondents include U.S. Congressmen Richard Ichord, Tom Eagleton, John D. Dingell, Stuart Symington, Jerry Litton, and Governor Christopher Bond.

The tax and employment records contain employment information and company policies; Division of Employment Security Records; tax records including receipts for donations, advertising records, schedules of assets, and records of Christmas gifts to customers; union contracts and labor agreements; correspondence; newsclippings and pictures; seniority and attendance lists; wage rates; employment records; employee evaluations; a 1974 operations summary; and miscellaneous material on a 1974 strike, construction costs, natural gas prices, building trades unions in Columbia and the state, and the Midland Brick and Tile Company, Chillicothe.

The correspondence is arranged chronologically, 1947-1986, followed by a topical section with only the late 1960s and 1970s being represented. A 1978 financial statement, accounts, and an international magazine article on brick manufacture are included. Topics include trucking and freight rates; surface mining legislation; local concerns; trespassing, vandalism and theft problems; field trips; the Columbia Senior High School and University of Missouri School of Nursing jobs; delinquent accounts; firebrick; Tiger football; the purchase of Windsor clay land holdings in Boonville; and Cooper County real estate holdings, taxes, farm tenancy, power and water line easements, with promissory notes, agricultural leases, and land plats and deeds.

The miscellaneous material includes blueprints, materials on kilns, a 1955 test drilling log and 1962 plant topography map, a dynamite log with explosives inventories, maps and plats, photographs, a Columbia Brick and Tile Company poster sign, printed materials on masonry construction, auction sale catalogs and sale bills, and Technical Notes. Blueprints and sketches of kiln plans include specifications, materials bills, and correspondence, c. 1972. There are also blueprints for Columbia Brick and Tile Company office building additions.

The sale catalogs and sale bills are for manufacturing equipment, machinery, and brick plants and lumber companies. The auctions were held in Ironton, Perryville, and Sedalia, Missouri; other states; and Ontario. Maps and plats include 1972 pit maps. The earliest item in the miscellaneous material is a 1907 pamphlet on scumming and efflorescence of brick.

The **Volumes** series consists of an Edwards-Conley Brick and Tile Company account book, 1937-1945; a Columbia Brick and Tile Company sales ledger, 1957; and books related to the clay and masonry industries, the history of masonry, geology of Missouri, clay wares and clayworkers, and labor saving machinery.

This collection is an excellent source for local and labor history through the documentation of house and building construction in the Columbia and central Missouri area, and for the history of a local brick and tile industry. Of special interest is the detail on actual brick manufacture, technological and engineering advancements, gas shortages and curtailments of the 1970s, energy and environmental concerns, federal regulations and legislation, and occupational health and safety advancements.

FOLDER LIST

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Volumes Series

- v. 1 Edwards-Conley Brick and Tile Company account book, 1937-1945
- v. 2 Columbia Brick and Tile Company sales ledger, 1957
- v. 3 American Face Brick Association, Brickwork in Italy, Chicago, 1925
- v. 4 Ellis Lovejoy, E.M., Burning Clay Wares, T.A. Randall and Company, Indianapolis, 1922
- v. 5 Alfred B. Searle, The Clayworker's Handbook, J.B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, 1929
- v. 6 A.G. Unklesbay, Geology of Boone County Missouri, Missouri Department of Business and Administration, Division of Geological Survey and Water Resources, Rolla, Missouri, 1952. Separate maps are in the back of the volume.
- v. 7 H.S. McQueen and Paul G. Herold, Geology of the Fire Clay Districts of East Central Missouri, Missouri Geological Survey and Water Resources, Rolla, Missouri, 1943. Separate maps are in the back of the volume.
- v. 8 L.R. Whitaker, What Happens Inside Your Kiln, Industrial Publications, Chicago, 1944
- v. 9 Stephens-Adamson Manufacturing Company, "S-A" Labor-Saving Machinery, Aurora, Illinois, 1916

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