

Redesigning ILLINOIS

by LESTER COLBY

One hundred and one years ago William Heath came out of the east and established the first pottery manufacturing plant in Illinois. It was the first of the White Hall clay-working plants. William Heath's first product was a commonplace reddish pottery made of red clay and glazed with red lead.

Seven years later, in 1833, a second plant was established in White Hall. Here the first genuine salt-glazed pottery was made in Illinois by John N. Eby, another easterner. Others followed in and for 101 years the pottery business in White Hall has steadily moved on.

It was in White Hall, Greene county, Ill., that A. D. Ruckel perfected the flash-wall kiln the influence of which was soon to be known through the pottery world. C. A. Ruckel, his son, now is head of the business. And it was here in White Hall that the White Hall Sewer Pipe & Pottery Works built the first 42-foot kilns, the largest in the world at that time. To this day, it is claimed, none is larger though some of equal size have been built.

Name Known Widely
White Hall is not a big place, only 2,954 population according to the records, but in clay-working it has made its name felt everywhere. White Hall products have won prizes at international exhibitions and the name, White Hall, on stoneware has been recognized as something akin to Sterling on silver.

Evolution, too, has come to the business in White Hall. That first commonplace, plain red-ware has become art ware. Tasty bands and markings have come to make the stoneware more colorful. Wall pockets, flower pots, vases, bird fountains and doo-dads are more apparent. Prohibition has made its imprint, too. Fewer jugs are made because the rural dweller no longer returns from town with that historic container well filled with "spirits" under the buggy seat.

To be sure there has been some impetus to the demand for "open-mouthed" crocks of the kind the maker of home-brew is supposed to covet. They are made in all sizes up to forty gallons. And this can-opener age has interfered a bit with the manufacture of bean pots but earthen chicken fountains are wanted as never before. Farm papers suggest them because of absence of metals.

How Jugs Are Made
I have often wondered just how jugs were made. They are molded in two parts, the top set on the lower half, the seam is made invisible by hand, the handle is put on while the clay is still damp and pliable and the whole piece is kiln-burnt.

Great machines mix and knead the raw clays. Under pressure they are run through other automatic machinery. Making tile is practically the same operation as making macaroni. An earthen dough, under pressure, is run through a die which shapes it. The moist pipes are automatically trimmed and set aside to dry.

When the moisture is reduced to a proper degree the tiles are taken to the kilns for burning. Sewer pipe is made from three to twenty-seven inches. Openware and crocks and the

mixing bowls for our kitchens that "nest" one inside the other, pour through the plant steadily.

Many Sizes Necessary
It is an economical necessity that a pottery maker manufacture goods of many sizes. This is because in the burning one item of a slightly smaller size is placed inside a larger one and each smaller one, while being burned, contains a smaller one down to the smallest. Why? It means volume. Waste space in the kilns must be avoided.

The output is in direct ratio to the ability of the makers to "nest" the goods being made in the kilns. It cuts down the element of time and the cost in making and plays an important part in the extreme low cost of stoneware.

If you have a large crock in your kitchen look at it. The glaze, probably, will extend up its sides. The bottom and the rim at the top will not be glazed. There is a reason for that. In burning crocks are placed one on top of another, filled with smaller crocks.

If glazed parts touch in the burning they would fuse or weld together. Unglazed parts can touch. If the bottoms are glazed you will probably find three little points. That is where the dish or bowl stood on three little pyramids of clay while it was being burned. They were there to prevent fusing.

Oldest Business
Pottery? How old is pottery? Some say it is man's oldest manufacturing business. If you know your Bible you may recall in Jeremiah the words:

"Then I went down to the potter's and, behold, he was making a piece on the wheels."

But if the oldest industry is in White Hall so is one of the newest of industries. Here serum is made to immunize hogs against cholera. To make hogs well, hogs must first be made sick. A little distance out of White Hall is the Gregory Farm laboratory.

Here healthy young hogs are brought and inoculated with the disease. The sickness must be severe. A portion of them must die of the cholera. But the sickness and death of the individual hog makes life and health sure for hundreds of thousands of hogs. The serum is now sold from this plant generally over five states. At times it has been shipped even to the Philippines and the Orient.

Another industry is the White Hall Pants & Overall Co., which manufactures the "Maiden White Hall" brand. White Hall also has a bottling works and a milk condenser. But clay products are the main thing. And then there are the McClays—

Apple Raising
That's the story of how a bite into an apple made an industry. The McClay family operates an eighteen hundred acre apple orchard a few miles out of town. A. L. McClay manages it. Legend has it that his father, many years ago, passing through here one day picked up an apple and bit into it. "Um-m-m," he said. "Fine flavor. Best I ever tasted."

Experienced as an orchardist, he bought land and the orchard now ships out sometimes as many as 500 carloads of apples in a season. I am not endeavoring to write history. I am more interested in the future than in the past. But sometimes history insists that it be written. Ever hear of Josiah Lamborn? Down here in White Hall they tell me that Josiah Lamborn hadn't been "taken in early manhood" he would have gone down in history along with Lincoln and Douglas.

Before his taking-off he was the third, they say, of a triumvirate of Illinois statesmen who ranked above all others. Douglas and Lincoln were the other two. He was a man of remarkable genius, statesmanship and oratorical ability in a time when these things marked a man as great. His grave is in White Hall.

Wrote Famous Lines
Here also lies sleeping the Rev. Thomas Carney, a Universalist pastor of the early day. Mrs. Carney was the author of those immortal lines:

LONDON PAPERS HAVE FLOOD NEWS PHONED

Receive Special Reports by Transatlantic System from the U. S.

Newspapers in London made use of the trans-Atlantic telephone service in order to get the latest Mississippi flood stories.

The International News Service, on April 30, rushed a Mississippi flood story to the London Evening Standard in time to make an early edition.

The story was dictated in New York headquarters as it was taken from the telegraph wires and was copied down by relays of reporters in London, the entire story requiring twenty-one minutes to transmit. At about the same time the London Evening News cabled the Times Picayune of New Orleans for a full story of the flood situation. This story was telephoned direct from New Orleans to the editorial rooms in London and its early publication in England and on the continent served to reassure thousands of southerners who were traveling abroad and who were alarmed by the rumor that New Orleans itself was about to be destroyed.

NEW FLYING BOAT IS BUILDING IN EUROPE

HAS MANY GOOD FEATURES

Interesting Report Comes From Germany Regarding Craft to Be Used in London-Hamburg Line

A new flying boat is under construction at the Rohrbach airplane works, says a German report, the most interesting feature of which is that its various sections can be closed by water-tight doors thus forming so many watertight compartments two of which can run full of water without the airplane sinking. Even the large passenger's cabin is not exempt from this and can be divided into two sections by a watertight door. In order to prevent the airplane from capsizing when riding a heavy sea, the tips of the wings contain airtight compartments.

In case of a breakdown of the engines this flying boat can sail to the nearest port. Its seaworthiness is increased by a small ship's pump driven by a special engine. The flying boat has a crew of three men and can take 10 passengers. It has a length of 20 meters, a span of 26 meters and is fitted with two English Rolls Royce engines of 650 horsepower each.

As soon as this flying boat has been completed another of even larger dimensions will be built, having a length of 22 meter and a span of 33 meters. This will be fitted with three German B. M. W. engines of 450 horsepower each and will be capable of lifting 4.6 metric tons besides its own weight. With these flying boats an air service from Hamburg to London straight across the North Sea will, according to present intentions, be opened this year. The Rohrbach airplane company ranks together with the Junkers and Dornier works among the leading airplane factories of Germany.

In this connection it may be mentioned that the Siemens company has obtained a license for building in Germany the famous British Bristol-Jupiter air-cooled airplane engine which is considered here the finest of its kind in the world.

"Little drops of water, little grains of sand
Make the mighty ocean and the golden strand."

They were written in her girlhood when her name was Julia A. Fletcher and she lived in Boston. Mrs. Carney died in Galesburg, while residing, a widow, at the home of a son. She is buried there.

CHERRY BLOSSOM TIME IN JAPAN

HAS COME AND GONE AGAIN

Many Interesting and Unique Features of This Notable Season in Nippon Are Described

Japan's famous cherry blossom season has come and gone in Tokyo. Here and there a late blooming tree still stands as if the sunrise had caught in its branches, but the masses of white, tinged with a faint pink, have vanished from the parks. With them have vanished the cherry blossom viewers, that army of Tokyo's millions which makes its annual pilgrimage to the sakura-no-midoro, cherry viewing places, to spend the day in merrymaking.

Reach Perfection
Most of the blossoms in the capital reached perfection shortly after the Hana-matsuri or flower festival, the birthday of Buddha. Two or three days later they began to fall. In Ueno Park and Asukayama, a suburb of Tokyo, with a breeze blowing, every tree produced a miniature snowstorm of pink and white.

On a single day of April more than 2,000,000 residents of the capital district journeyed to the famous cherry viewing places. Those who traveled to Ueno Park were quiet, mostly family parties, carrying picnic lunches, bent simply on a quiet day with the transient beauties of nature. At Asukayama, however, masqueraders impersonating the famous characters of Japanese history, moved through the throngs, acting bits from plays, singing popular songs, making themselves ridiculous, while the police watched benevolently from a nearby hill.

Little Disorder
Considering the size of the crowds and the fact that cherry viewing, next to New Year's Eve, is probably the most general excuse for revelry anywhere in the world, little real disorder resulted.

There are perhaps 20 varieties of the famous cherry trees in Tokyo, but the most generally distributed is the Somei-yoshino, so called because it was developed by a famous gardener of Somei during the days of the Tokugawa Shogunate, when the capital was in Kyoto and Tokyo was called Yedo. These trees bloom at various times, from the middle of March to the 1st of May.

As a matter of fact, the Japanese cherry tree is not a cherry at all, but a plum. Its botanical name is prunus pseudocerasus, or "the plum called cherry." Its fruit is unfit to eat.

After having loafed all the year, many of the college students think that now they should have a vacation.

Good many people talk as if they wanted a war, but not many of them look as if they were going to do any fighting themselves.

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