Rohrer's Quarry Video © 2003

1. In November of 1886, Thomas Erb began operating a lime kiln on his farm just southwest of Lititz.

2. Like many other farmers in the area, he would break up some of the abundant limestone on the farm and load it into his kiln with wood.

3. Ignited, the two would burn in the kiln for between one and three weeks and produce a white "lump" lime…

4. …which was used in fields to "sweeten" the soil and increase the yield as well as to make whitewash, an important method used to whiten and sanitize the interior of dairy barns at the time.

5. In 1937, when many kilns were being abandoned to more modern methods of mass-producing lime, Thomas Erb Jr. and his new partner, Paul Rohrer began transforming the business to supply a fast growing demand for stone… building roads.

6. Paul became the sole owner in 1958 and the operation became Rohrer's Quarry,

7. The limestone of the Epler Formation lies just under a thin layer of soils which must first be removed or stripped to begin the mining process.

8. The clays and topsoils are saved for reclamation and placed in hill shaped barriers called berms which surround the quarry pit. Seeded and planted with trees they help with the appearance as well as the safety of the quarry.

9. Next, a backhoe removes any soil that extends down into the first layers of rock and the area is leveled with fine crushed stone.

10. A drill is brought in to prepare for blasting. Holes are drilled in a pre-set design so the explosive placed in them will best break up the rock and spread it safely across the quarry floor.

11. Expert, licensed blasters are brought in to load the explosive.

12. After clearing the area and sounding a warning siren…

13. …the Earth is moved.

14. When the area is determined to be safe, a loader is moved in to sort out the larger rocks.

15. Any which are too large to be put in the crusher are broken up with a drop ball.

16. Once it is broken to a size less than three feet across, all material is loaded on haul trucks…

17. …and hauled to the Primary Crusher.

18. Here it is dumped into a bin which feeds an impact crusher. An edged cylinder inside it spins at 1500 RPM, breaking the stone by hurling it against other rocks and the sides of the crusher.

19. The broken rock, a mixture of stone from dust up to 1 foot in size, falls out on to a conveyor belt.

20. The belt takes the crushed stone up to a screening tower where it is deposited on a series of different sized vibrating screens…

21. ...sorting the material accordking to it's size onto different conveyors and placed on piles.

22. Some are mixtures of stone and stone dust called 2RC, 2A-modified, and 3A-modified which are mostly spread as the base or a final surface to make roads and parking lots.

23. Some stone is transferred from the first tower to a surge pile where an operator monitor's its feed into a secondary crusher. Here it is ground by a fast-spinning cone.

24. The stone is then conveyed to another screening tower where sizes from 1 ½" down are sorted onto piles…

25. Or into bins and loaded onto trucks.

26. The oversize material is sent to one of another two crushers and cycled through the process until its small enough to be used.

27. A baghouse system keeps dust from the screening process from dirtying the air. Even this material is collected into a bin and used as agricultural lime.

28. An air separator removes the finest particles from sand to make an important ingredient in asphalt paving materials.

29. The ¼" and ½" stone is also used in asphalt or spread on icy roadways for traction in the winter.

30. ¾" is a component in concrete as well as on roadways and in asphalt

31. 1 to 1 ½" material is used in various building applications including as a base under concrete and to construct septic drain fields.

32. Some of the 1 to 1 ½" is transferred to still another crushing plant.

33. It is kept under a roof to keep it dry so it doesn't clog the very fine screens it will have to pass through.

34. It is crushed in a vertical shaft impactor and travels up to another screening tower…

35. Producing agricultural lime, stone chips used in bagged fertilizer, hot top sand for foundry use, and sorbent material used for pollution control in co-gen power generation.

36. Once trucks are loaded…they are weighed on a platform scale.

38. Dispatchers take calls and direct the deliveries to customers as far away as Delaware, New Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia…

39. …as well as to local contractors.

40. Some materials are used in our own modern concrete plant…

41. Where mixers are loaded by a computerized batch system…

42. And deliver concrete to jobs in the Lancaster, Lititz, Manheim, and surrounding areas.

43. To make foundations, buildings, sidewalks, farm storage systems, and more.

44. Rohrer's has also taken the many years of experience in maintaining our own vehicles…

45. …and offers the same quality service to others, servicing the fleets of many well-known local businesses.

45a. In the same way we have taken our experience and now do drilling for other quarries through CMR Drilling…

45b. And Rohrer's Safety Services conducts training and other safety-related functions for a wide variety of customers.

46. Rohrer's Quarry has been an important part of the community for many years, supporting educational and charitable organizations…

46.a We are neighbors… sharing what we do.

47. … providing important stone and concrete products from the valuable resources found right here in Lancaster County.