

# *History*

## *1964-65*

Sikeston Ceramics, with headquarters in Chicago, began the process of purchasing the Cameron Clay Products in the early fall of 1964. A Nov.-1-1964 news article stated that a number of workers were cleaning and preparing for installation of machinery and equipment.

The company had two other plants with the Cameron plant being scheduled to manufacture ceramic lamp bases. Joseph J. Juhasz, the local manager, stated that nine carloads of material was already being shipped and he expected to start shipping out finished products in about five weeks.

Mr. Juhasz said that operations would start with about 70 employees and would increase to 175 within a year. By the first day of Nov. 1964

another article stated that the company had a work force of 43 with this number increasing day by day.

On Sunday afternoon, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 1964 the Cameron Pottery was leveled by fire. It had only been in operation for 3 weeks after having been idle for two years. The cause of the fire was not determined, but it apparently started in the kiln room. Only a few records were saved.

Emmett Burge, fire chief, said the fire spread so rapidly that units diverted their efforts to keeping the fire confined to the building. Units from 8 surrounding communities were called in to assist with containing the fire.

A Nov. 19 news article mentions William

Chandler as manager. He stated that any decision to rebuild would have to be determined by Sikeston, Inc., of Chicago, Ill.

An article from January 14, 1965 shed light on a title dispute which eventually stymied the rebuilding of the pottery. Harold Roman, president of the Sikeston Ceramics, Inc. stated that the replacement value would be \$1.7 million. Since insurance would not cover this cost he stated that plans would need to wait until the title dispute could be settled.

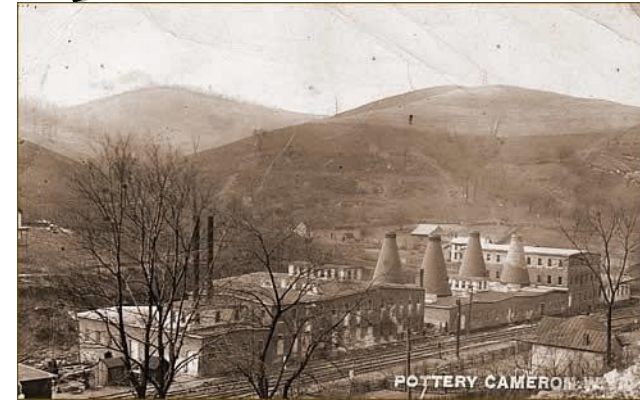
Mrs. Roberta Wells, Newell Heights, (this would be near New Cumberland) owner of the Cameron Clay Products, was engaged in selling the plant at the time of the fire. According to her attorney she did not plan to rebuild the facility, but had as a contingency of the sale that the plant would remain in Cameron.

The final article found by these sources further outlines the dispute. Sikeston Ceramics filed suit against Cameron Clay Products, Inc. seeking to compel CCP to carry out an agreement to sell. The sale was to have been finalized on or before Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>, 1964. CCP sent letters refusing to accept the tendered balance which Sikeston offered to pay in the amount of \$90,000.00. Also seeking damages of \$2,500.00 for improvements and equipment which were destroyed in the fire, Sikeston alleged that CCP carried fire and casualty insurance, the amount unknown to them – the plaintiff. As a result of the fire the insurance proceeds would have been payable and Sikeston felt that they were entitled to them. The final statement in the 1-21-1965 article asks that CCP disclose the amount of fire and casualty insurance held.

It would be interesting to research the final outcome of these funds, but the sad truth is that Cameron Clay Products was never rebuilt and one can only imagine what it might have done for the city of Cameron.

# *Cameron*

## *Pottery Day*



**Saturday July 28, 2012**  
**10:00—3:30**

***At the Cameron Senior  
Center***

**Tables available:**

***To sell items—\$10.00 per table***

***To display items—tables are free***

Please call for more information  
or to rent table space:

Myrt

Phone: 304-686-3658

# History in Review

The first pottery in Cameron was the Cameron Pottery, organized in 1903, which manufactured tableware with the plant being purchased by O.J. Backus and R.E. Crane, who changed the company's name to the Elger Company of New Jersey.

D.F. Merritt joined the company, and used the years 1907-1912 to get the plant on a paying basis. With the help of certain invention, such as the round tank and round lavatory, they got a good start, and by 1913, the plant had build up so much that all its business could not be taken care of in the WV plant. Therefore, a large tableware plant was acquired at Ford City, PA in 1918.

The Cameron Clay Products Company was the last pottery in the city and was a mainstay for the community over the years because it employed a large number of workers.

A 1903 article follows:

The new plant of the Cameron Pottery Co., of Cameron, which is about to burn its first kiln of ware, is one which merits more than passing notice. This plant will take its place at once among the neatest and most up-to-date plants in America.

There is a fully equipped electric lighting plant, which, beside furnishing light for the pottery and power for the electric elevators, with which the plant is equipped, will furnish light for the city of Cameron.

The entire plant is planned so as to save labor and produce the best possible grade of ware at the least expense.

Equipment listed in the article include two large filter presses, two large steel blungers with six jiggers and two lathes, and other equipment, all with the appearance of stability and a capacity for a large amount of work.

## Pottery Workers Cameron WV 1940's



Pottery Workers, Cameron, W.Va., 1940's

There was a large and airy kiln shed which contained six kilns, - two bisque, two glost and two double decorating kilns.

The decorating shop on the third floor had good light and air. This large room had two wide stairwells and one large elevator leading down.

A full line of dinner, toilet and hotel ware were made in both plain and decorated design. The new shapes were said to be tasty and up to date.

Two lines of toilet ware, the "Francis" and the "Augusta" were planned and a dinner line, the "Laurel", was produced.

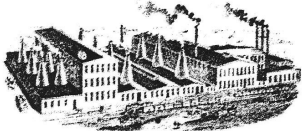
It was expected that products would be ready for shipping by October 1.

A Mr. Charles Mahan was mentioned as having represented the Smith-Phillips China Company in the East, and was to represent the new plant in the West after October 1.

**The Cameron Pottery Co.**  
CAMERON, WEST VIRGINIA

MANUFACTURERS OF  
**SEMI-VITREOUS PORCELAIN**  
— IN —  
**Dinner, Toilet and Hotel Ware**

**New  
Shapes**



**New  
Decorations**

Factory of The Cameron Pottery Co., operated by electricity, situated on R. & O. R. R., direct shipping facilities East and West.

We Manufacture Trade Winners      We Manufacture Trade Keepers

Write for Catalogue

**The Cameron Pottery Co.**      Cameron, West Virginia.

## Cameron & Loudenville Picures

Submitted by Charles W. "Bill" Miller



Cameron Pottery Workers, Circa 1930

**Patterson Glass and Manufacturing Company** – One of the oldest window glass factories in West Virginia, started in 1901 by Guy B. Patterson and others from Barnesville, Ohio. The company was located in Cameron because of the abundance of cheap natural gas, as well as the proximity of find glass sand and raw limestone, sand being used from Berkeley Springs, West Virginia, and limestone from Martinsburg, West Virginia.

The factory was originally a pot furnace, but a continuous tank was built in 1907. This was called a twenty-four blower tank, and the plant employed but one hundred and fifty men, adult labor, no boys being used. This hand-blown method of making glass was gradually superseded by machine methods, both cylindrical and sheet form of operation. The plant employed 150 men and was in operation for several years, with Mr. Guy B. Patterson working as both the manager and secretary.



Vintage Sunburst 24 Kt. Gold Planter  
Flower Vase