



Summary Information

Title: TexLam Photograph Collection

Collection Number: 2013:046

Creator: Richard Weeks

Collection Dates:

Extent: .25 ft³

Language: English

Collection Abstract:

This collection contains 144 photographs, 5 sheets of negatives, and 3 newspaper articles covering the history and development of TexLam, Inc. and its products, building projects, and transportation needs during the first half of the 1960's. Originally based in Houston, TexLam moved its plant and headquarters to Diboll in 1961, becoming a fully owned Temple Industries subsidiary in 1964.

Repository:

The History Center
102 N. Temple
Diboll, TX 75941
936-829-3543
www.thehistorycenteronline.com

Author/Processing Information: Emily E. Hyatt

Biographical/Historical Note:

Originally based in Houston, TexLam was incorporated in 1954 and began making its glue laminated beams, arches, and girders there. The company caught the interest of Temple's management and in 1959 Temple Industries bought 50% of the company. From the moment of its partial purchase by Temple, TexLam began the process of moving their operations to Diboll. In 1961, the new TexLam plant opened near the Treating Plant, in a building built by TexLam with their own products. The new plant was large, with the wide open spaces needed to construct the large architectural beams and arches. In 1964, Temple bought the remaining 50% of the company and TexLam became one of Temple Industries' solely owned subsidiaries.

TexLam's products were custom designed by their engineering department to the specifications of each customer. The glued laminated beams and arches provided an attractive way for architects to support their buildings and examples are still around in East Texas buildings, particularly churches. The company perfected a process that laminated boards or timbers together to create an engineered wood

product that was stronger than steel and infinitely more attractive for architects and designers to bring into the interiors of their buildings.

As architectural styles changed and the construction industry rose and fell with the American economy, TexLam's business was not as profitable as it was once thought to be for Temple. After the mid-1970's, the company was not able to justify this business segment and TexLam was slowly shuttered. The building, originally purpose-built for TexLam, by TexLam, with its wide open shop floor and large loading areas was used for storage for many years, but time and the elements were not kind to it. It was finally torn down in 2007.

Collection Scope and Content:

144 photographs, 5 sheets of negatives, and 3 newspaper articles covering the history and development of TexLam, Inc. and its products, building projects, and transportation needs during the first half of the 1960's.

Arrangement:

Photographs are arranged as they came, in two different folders. The Newspaper clippings were separated into a separate folder.

Subject Terms

Topics

- Laminated Wood – Texas – Diboll
- Lumber Industry – Texas -- Diboll
- Railroads – Texas – Diboll

Corporate Names

- TexLam, Inc.
- Southern Pine Lumber Company
- Temple Industries
- Texas Southeastern Railroad

Personal Names

- Bridges, Jim
- Temple, Arthur Jr.

Genres

- Photographs
- Newspaper Article

Locations

- Diboll (Tex.)

Access and Use: The collection is not digitized and may be accessed at The History Center 102 N. Temple, Diboll, TX.

Access Restrictions: No restrictions

Acquisition Information: Collection was donated by Richard Weeks on December 19, 2013

Custodial History: Photographs and news articles were collected by donor's step-father during his tenure at TexLam. Donor kept them until 2013, when he donated the photos and articles to The History Center.

Citation: TexLam Photograph Collection, 2013:046, The History Center, Diboll, TX

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Bibliography: *The Pine Bough Magazine*, December 2014

Collection Inventory

- Folder 1 78 photographs of varying sizes and 5 pages of negatives depicting TexLam building products, Diboll plant construction, workers in the TexLam plant, building models, Madisonville, Texas schools, Lufkin Federal Savings and Loan building construction, trucks adapted to carry large arches and beams, and gondola railroad cars adapted to transport arches to New Mexico in 1962 (color photo)
- Folder 2 66 photographs of varying sizes depicting TexLam building products, Diboll headquarters and plant, inside the plant with beams and arches under construction, construction project for Dow Chemical possibly in Lake Jackson, Texas, building project at Crossett, Arkansas, trucks ready to transport beams and arches, Diboll Plywood Plant, and various unnamed building projects
- Folder 3 3 news articles about TexLam in Diboll.
Copy: "Modern TexLam Plant is Another Step in Diversification at Southern Pine Lumber Company," *The Lumberman*, Vol. 89, No. 1.
Original: Editor Paul Durham's column commending TexLam employees for supporting fundraising for new community pool, *The Free Press*, July 19, 1961.
Original: Photographs of new T.L.L. Temple Memorial Library in Diboll, *The Free Press*, November 5, 1964.