

Historic B&W Boilers Still in Operation

PABCO Paper – Vernon, CA

- Vernon, CA is a small industrial town just south of downtown Los Angeles.
- The buildings that house PABCO Paper date back to the late 1800's and the site has always been used for paper production.
- Today, PABCO primarily makes the “front” and “back” papers for conventional drywall, but also makes stock for shoe boxes and wrapping paper tubes.

PABCO Company History

- 1913 to 1918 – Southern Board and Paper Mill
 - 1918 to 1926 – Paraffin Companies
 - 1926 to 1972 – Fiberboard
 - 1972 to 1984 – Pacific Coast Packaging Corp.
 - 1984 to present – PABCO Paper
1. General Manager Bill Frazer has been with the company since 1993 and provided much of the history, as well as my access to the boiler operations.
 2. Boiler operator Linton Porta has been working at this site maintaining the B&W boilers since 1972. Linton has been carrying a “lucky buckeye nut” that he was given soon after arriving in NY after immigrating from Brazil in 1965.

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PABCO B&W Boiler #2

In February, Director of Group Quality Ron Pulliam visited PABCO Paper in Vernon, CA to observe (5) B&W boilers built in the early 1900's which are still in operation today. The nameplate above is still affixed to B&W Boiler #2, which is a Water Tube style, based on the concepts of the original 1877 boiler design.



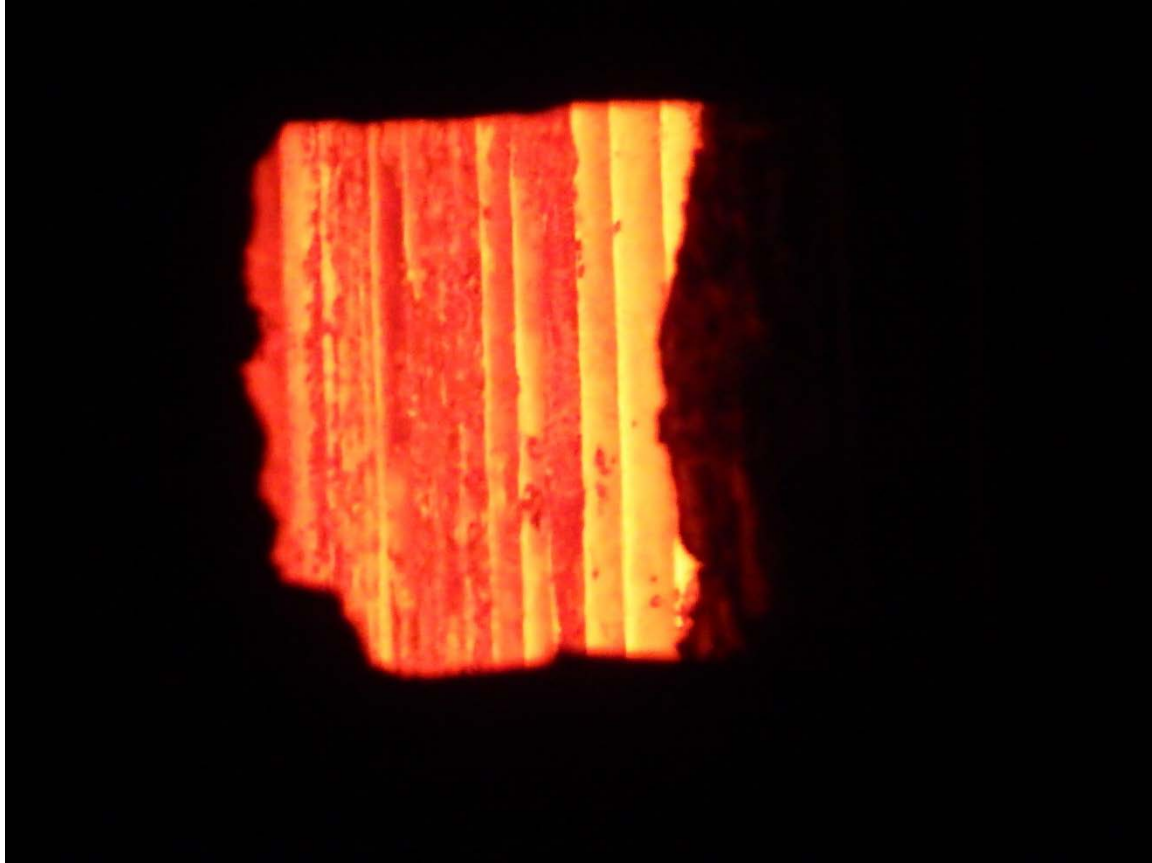
PABCO Boiler #2

This boiler displayed a second nameplate to list the specifications: (252) 4" tubes; 16 ft. long; (3) 12' drums, 1/2" thick; Built 1903. The boiler produces steam used for drying paper at various stages in the paper-making process.



PABCO Boiler #5

Boiler #5, along with boiler #2 are the workhorses for PABCO. This Stirling boiler is dual-fired (oil and gas) and once utilized a superheater, which has since been removed.



PABCO Boiler #5

A view of the Stirling boiler tubes in operation through the inspection door.



PABCO Boiler #5

A view of an early sootblower design that has been disconnected for many years due to environmental regulations. Today, the boiler operator cleans the boiler cavity “by hand” using a portable pressure washer when maintenance is due.



Condensate Collection Tank

Like all of the vessels that make up the PABCO boiler steam plant, all are constructed by way of riveting. Every tank and vessel on site is original construction.



Boiler Operator Linton Porta

Mr. Porta is showing off a prized possession – his “B&W Wrench”, which he believes was supplied with the first boilers. The socket size fits the tube end caps on the water tubes. Today, when a tube failure is experienced, the tube is simply plugged.



PABCO Boiler #1

Boiler #1 was cannibalized for parts approximately 50 years ago, and still provides “parts” for boilers #2 and #3. Units 1 thru 3 all utilize (3) drums.