

source: "Manufacturing in N.Z."  
1959.

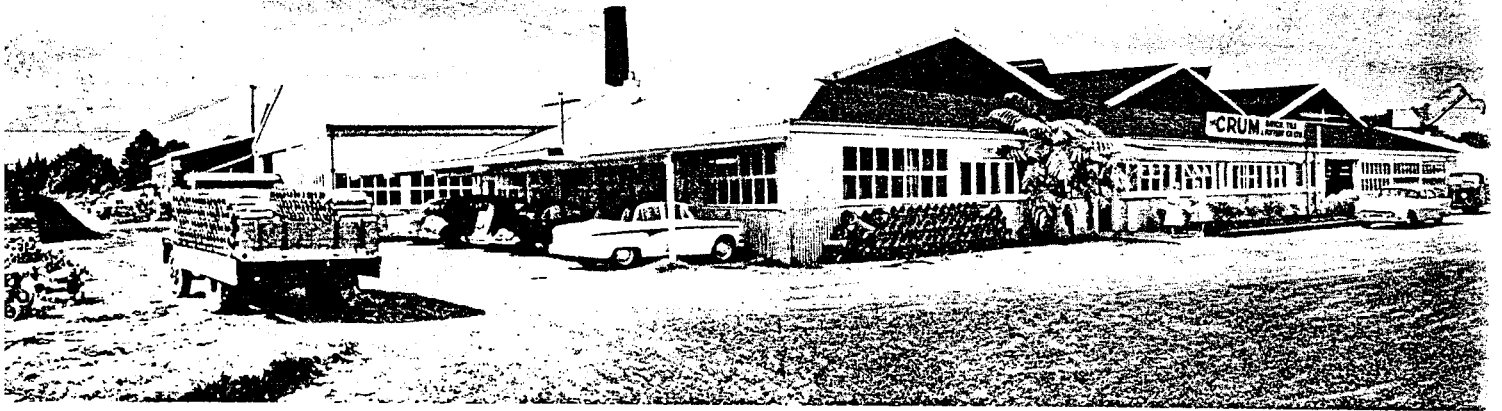


Photo: Sparrow Industrial Pictures

*An Industry where family tradition and pride of workmanship play a vital part*

## CRUM BRICK, TILE AND POTTERY CO. LTD

New Lynn, Auckland

In 1875 Albert Crum emigrated to New Zealand from the West Country of England and settled in Ashburton. His father had been a stone carver but saw no future in it for his growing family. Against this background and that of his forbears, who were yeoman farmers accustomed to manual work, young Albert decided to direct his ability to the making of bricks. Along with two other men he began pugging clay, using wooden moulds and producing an average of 300 bricks a day, considered at that time to be a fair number.

Construction work on the New Zealand Midland Railway, connecting Canterbury with Nelson and the West Coast, gave a fillip to this industry. Crum bricks, even in those days, were selected for lining the Otira tunnel. The Hoffman kilns in which these bricks were baked are still in use today!

### The turn of the Century

About the year 1905, Albert Crum visited Auckland, where he decided to settle. Soon afterwards he established the business known as the N.Z. Brick, Tile and Pottery Co. Ltd., on a 64-acre site adjacent to the New Lynn Railway Station. Opposition naturally emanated from other established interests, and, to add to his difficulties, local clay, as such, was found to be unsuitable. However, by trial and error, he hit upon the right mixture which allowed for fluctuations during drying and firing processes. It is interesting to note that clay at that time was being dug from pits where Carlaw Park now stands, in the vicinity of the Playhouse in Karangahape Road, and near Tuarangi Road, Grey Lynn.

Much of the machinery still in use today was blueprinted but never patented by Albert Crum, and patterns were generously passed over to friends in the business. Only when necessary was plant imported from England.

The present Company, a partnership of four sons, was established in 1929, following the merging of other firms into the present Amalgamated Brick & Pipe Co. Ltd. During the years of depression, erection of the works went on slowly, and it was not until 1934 that the first sale of flower pots was made. The earthquake disaster in Hawke's Bay in the 30s made clear the practical necessity for a building brick which would withstand the stresses of earthquake conditions, and

following experiments such a brick was introduced by Crums. Later, field tiles and earthenware pipes and fittings, which comprise a large part of today's production, were added to the Company's lines.

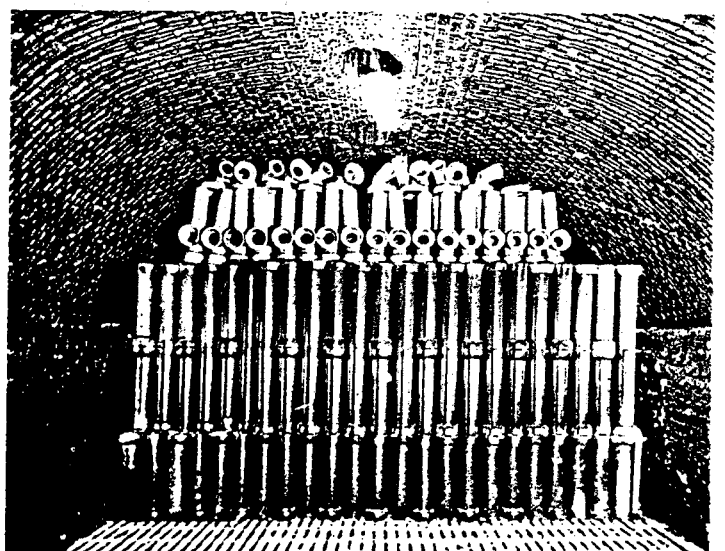
Under the guidance of Mr. Albert Crum until his death in 1951 and through the aptitudes of his sons, the business has continued to thrive. The loyalty of the staff did much to tide the Company over a difficult period, and it is worthy of note that the firm has never been involved in any internal industrial trouble.

### The beginning of a New Company

The foregoing spirit has undoubtedly been reflected in the workmanship of this company's products. Quality sewage and drainage ware and earthenware products are to be found throughout the Auckland Province and beyond. The Company has built up for itself a reputation for complete satisfaction as a result of its high standard of manufacture.

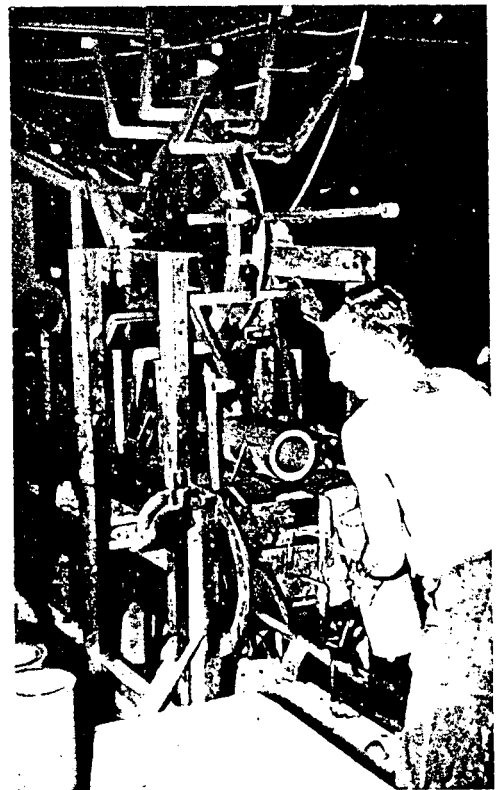
### GLAZED EARTHENWARE in the kiln.

Photo: Sparrow Industrial Pictures





FIELD TILES come off the machine. Many miles of these are made for use in drainage in the Auckland Province.



A FLOWER POT being fashioned from the clay — one of the many different sizes made by Crum.

C-48

SEWER PIPES BY THE THOUSAND stand in rows for finishing and drying.

Photo: Rod Harvey



PROVIDED BY  
WAITAKERE LIBRARY &  
INFORMATION SERVICES  
LOCAL HISTORY &  
REFERENCE SERVICES

14 23.11.67

## SIGNS NOT SUFFICIENT

Measures to keep children out of a New Lynn clay pit where a 10-year-old boy was buried in a fall had been completely ineffectual, the Auckland coroner, Mr A. D. Copeland, said yesterday.

He was concluding an inquest into the death of John Raymond McNeil.

Alan Leo Foulkes, aged 11, said that on the afternoon of September 23 he and John McNeil and John's younger brother, Alan, had entered the quarry of Amalgamated Brick and Pipe Co., Ltd, from Margan Ave.

They had slid down a clay slope for a while and then they climbed up to where the accident happened. He and John took the sign off a pole which was lying on the clay. It mentioned something about trespassers.

He said he had been sitting on a ledge throwing stones at the sign and John was coming down toward him when the cliff fell away.

Leonard Norman Dormer, security officer for Amalgamated Brick, said that while patrolling the clay pit between noon and 3 p.m. on the day of the accident he had chased eight children from the area.

Under cross-examination from Mr H. Fulton, who appeared for Amalgamated Brick and Pipe Co., Ltd, Mr Dormer said signs had been put up to dissuade people from entering the quarry.

They were placed at each entrance and 300 yards apart around the boundary of the 56-acre property.

Constable Murray James Cannons, of New Lynn, said it had been a wonder no one else had been killed in the quarry.

He said that, as safety precautions, the security officer and signs warning of the danger to children had been inadequate.

Mr Fulton asked Constable Cannons if he had had any experience with quarries on

which to base his statements. Constable Cannons said that his opinion had been based on his training as a policeman to protect life and property.

Herbert Eric Rowe, inspector of mines and quarries, said the quarry manager had carried out his statutory safety obligations conscientiously.

He considered that the company had adopted reasonable measures to prevent unauthorised entry into the area.

Mr Copeland said the quarry had been established when the area had been open country. Now it was surrounded by homes.

He found that the safety precautions had been completely ineffectual and said that if further tragedies were to be avoided a fence would have to be put up.

He referred the matter back to the authorities for action.

He found the death of the boy had been due to asphyxia.

NZ Herald

3 Oct 1967

PROVIDED BY  
WAITAKERE LIBRARY &  
INFORMATION SERVICES  
LOCAL HISTORY &  
REFERENCE SERVICES

W.L. 310.67

## Brick company gives trespass warning

A warning against trespassing was given by the company secretary of Amalgamated Brick and Pipe Coy Ltd, Mr K.M.P. Smith last week.

His statement followed the death of a 10-year-old boy in the company's clay pit.

In a prepared statement to the Leader, Mr Smith said that there were inherent and inevitable risks in daily life for people of all ages; but these risks were probably greater where children were involved because of their natural curiosity and adventurous spirit.

"While accepting that some degree of risk is present in many children's activities, the danger is in a lot of instances greater when children venture on to private property and in particular on to manufacturers' properties."

Mr Smith felt that his company, along with others in the area had always been very concerned with the problem of trespassing and had actively

pursued a policy of doing all practically possible in an endeavour to prevent it.

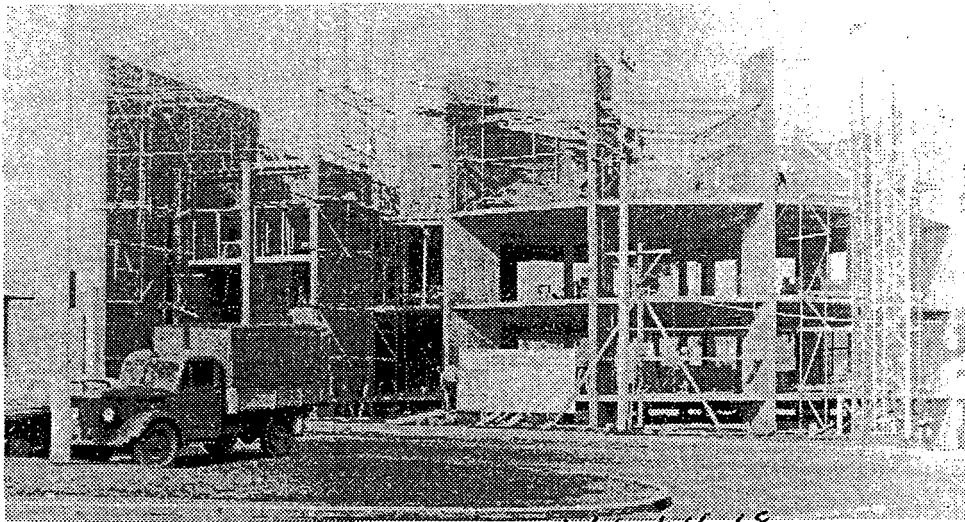
"It is a matter for regret that in many instances the warnings given and other actions taken have been treated with derision," he said.

He said he hoped publication of the article would encourage parents to do more to try to ensure that their children did not enter private property.

*Western Leader*

4 June 1968

PROVIDED BY  
WAITAKERE LIBRARY &  
INFORMATION SERVICES  
LOCAL HISTORY &  
REFERENCE SERVICES



*v.l. 16.68*  
**SIX WEEKS TO GO**

**The Amalgamated Brick and Pipe Coy's new computer building in Totara Ave, New Lynn, is now about six weeks away from completion.**

Architect, Mr N.H. Price, said his company was pleased with the progress being made, although work

was running a little behind schedule because of recent adverse weather.

"It looks massive and almost over-powering at the moment, but when the windows are put in and a few other details added, it will soften up in appearance," he said.

Apart from windows, the building needs only finish-

ing touches and, of course, the computer.

At present in storage in the city, this is one of the latest and most sophisticated computers produced.

"There are only two like it in the southern Hemisphere," Mr Price said.

*Western Leader*

27 August 1968

PROVIDED BY  
WAITAKERE LIBRARY &  
INFORMATION SERVICES  
LOCAL HISTORY &  
REFERENCE SERVICES

W.L. 27.8.68

# Computer centre near end

The core of Amalgamated Brick's striking new computer centre in Gt North Road - the machine itself - will probably be installed by the end of the month, and work on the building will be completed a few weeks

afterwards

The machine, a 1901 series I.C.L. computer, will not replace any staff. It will handle invoicing, statements, stock control, orders, payments, and analysis work. The final aim is full production control of the crockery factory.

"It will be working almost 24 hours a day," said computer manager, Mr E. S. Mancer.

"Other firms will use it as well as us. The Government is keen that the country's computers should be put to maximum use."

The computer at present installed in Caltex House in the city, will occupy only the ground floor of the circular building which is constructed mainly of brick and glass. Upper floors will be

used by administration staff.

The machine will be programmed and operated by six staff members.

Western Leader