

ASBESTOS GEEK PIC OF THE WEEK

April 17, 2024



A weekly post featuring pictures of asbestos-related artifacts from the private collection of Andy Rowland, CIH – Principal at IMPRIMIS Forensic Health & Safety.



Photo #1 – Keasbey & Mattison Sign

This week's picture features a Keasbey & Mattison sign promoting K&M's line of cementitious roof shingles and siding (See Photo #1). After holding onto it for many years, I decided to frame it for display.

In 1873, Henry G. Keasbey and Dr. Richard V. Mattison founded Keasbey & Mattison in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. At its inception, K&M was a small pharmaceutical manufacturer specializing in remedies for

headaches, heartburn, exhaustion, and constipation. Photos #2 & #3 show a cobalt blue bottle that once held a K&M pharmaceutical product.



Photos #2 & #3 – K&M Medicine Bottle

In 1882, Dr. Mattison visited the nearby town of Ambler (nee Wissahickon) and found it possessed the space, natural resources and railway access required for the company to grow. The bulk of the K&M operation was then moved to Ambler, its permanent home.

At about that same time, Mattison discovered that mixing magnesium carbonate and asbestos fibers produced an insulating fabric that significantly cut fuel costs when applied to steam pipes in

homes and other buildings. Mattison then focused all of his research on the discovery of all possible applications for asbestos. Within five years of operating in Ambler, the

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company changed its focus to the manufacturing of asbestos-related products, and K&M became the largest employer in Ambler.

During the rest of the 19th century, K&M constructed a mill village, a public library, an opera house, and the country's first asbestos textile plant.

In 1934, K&M was sold to the British asbestos manufacturer Turner and Newall.

For a better look at the K&M sign, see Photos #4 - #6 below.



Photo #4



Photo #5

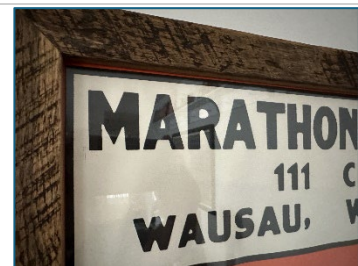


Photo #6

Here's a bonus pic of a K&M Label that I picked up many years ago.



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