



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
740 ST. HELENS STREET, TACOMA, WASHINGTON 98402

August 31, 1979

Mr. Armand Labbe
Superintendent ASARCO

My research project on the early history of Ruston naturally would include the history of ASARCO, and any assistance in supplying information about the history of the plant and the surrounding area would be appreciated. The below questions concern areas of specific interest.

1. Do you have written or photographic documentation of the 1889 Ryan Smelter?
2. Documentation of the Tacoma Smelting and Refining Co. 1890 - 1905, location of original buildings, stack, etc.
3. Can you supply us with a map showing the location of the plant buildings and improvements since the 1906 purchase by American Smelting and Refining Co.?
4. Do you have any information concerning the building of the Nelson Bennett Tunnel?
5. In the early years the smelter provided housing and other services to it's employees. What types of services were these? (stores, recreation hall, school, other?)
6. During the Second World War what changes were made by the government to assist in production? (barracks, employees, etc.)
7. Was the former stack removed and the present stack cracked at the some time the bell or corbeled cap was damaged?
8. What products are presently produced by ASARCO? (Copper, Gold-Silver, Arsenic, Slag, Sulfuric Acid, other?)
9. How many residents of Ruston now work at ASARCO?
10. Do you know of any other history or mythology surrounding ASARCO that might be of interest to this research project?

photograph

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Turner
Historic Preservation Researcher