# KILN DRYING USING A DOUBLE DUTY THERMOSTATIC TEMPERATUR CONTROL

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### KILN DRYING USING A DOUBLE DUTY THERMOSTATIC

TEMPERATURE CONTROL.

<u>BY</u>

Ray Reed Kittredge

April 1, 1984.

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Circulating heated air around the lumber by either natural or artificial means is the method generally used in kiln drying. This requires control of the heat, humidity and circulation in the kiln, and without control of any one of the three the best results cannot be obtained. The heat causes the moisture to transfuse from the center to the surface where it is evaporated; the humidity prevents too rapid surface evaporation which would cause casehardening, checking, and honey combing, especially if a high temperature is used; the circulation brings the heated air in contact with the lumber and carries away the evaporated moisture.

According to the laws of Physics moisture moves from the wet to the dry and from the hot to the cool area. It is therefore advisable to steam the lumber at a high temperature and high humidity at the beginning of the run, for the hot moist air will heat the lumber thru to the center and remove the casehardening quicker than when using a low temperature and high humidity and it also allows for the dropping of the wet bulb temperature after steaming below the temperature of the center of the lumber, which is a wet bulb temperature, thus getting the benefit of the two Physical laws noted for when drying starts the outside is drier than the center and the temperature of the center of the lumber is higher than the outside.

The length of time of steaming at the beginning of a run will vary from one to three hours to inch, at about 165°F, depending on the species, texture, moisture content and condition of the surface of the lumber. The drier the stock, the longer the steaming period unless it is surface checked, then it should be steamed just long enough to close up the checks. For fast drying after steaming the dry bulb temperature would run between 160° and 190° and the wet bulb temperature between 140° and 150° except in thick stock having large medullary rays or green stock in which collapse and honey combing are apt to occur, then lower temperatures should be used.

More attention should be paid to the moisture distribution from the center to surface instead of depending on casehardening tests to determine the condition of the lumber thruout the run. tributions on the stock going into the kiln gives an idea of how long it should be steamed and what kiln conditions to carry. When drying starts, a moisture gradient is established being caused by the evaporation of the moisture from the surface, and if this evaporation is faster than the transfusion from the center the outer shell will become much drier causing the lumber to casebarden and unless removed by steaming the surface will check and eventually honey combing will appear. Moisture distribution tests will show how long it is necessary to steam to again set up the transfusion and it can be told how high to carry the humidity in the kiln to \$10w up surface drying until the high center is pulled down. Lumber dries faster if the moisture distribution is nearly even. As casehardening causes unequal distribution it should be prevented as much as possible by intermittent steaming. It is best to steam often for short periods at a high temperature, the time to steam and duration being determined by the operator. From one to three hours is generally sufficient.

The structure of the control of the

KILN DRYING USING-HAND CONTROL.

WITHOUT WET AND DRY BULB RECORDING THERMOMETER.

When starting a kiln using hand control the spray valve is opened wide and the valve on the heating coil opened slightly. After spraying for the required length of time for conditioning the lumber, the spray valve is partly closed and the coil opened to points determined by practice that will give the approximate wet and dry bulb temperatures required. A hygrometer is then placed in the kiln back away from the door. Temperature readings are taken and the valves reset until the desired conditions are obtained. Thruout the run temperature readings are taken and valves are reset as necessary to carry the proper temperatures.

WITH WET AND DRY BULB RECORDING THERMOMETER.

The temperatures are controlled the same way, but it isn't necessary to go into the kiln to get the readings except to occasionally check up on the recorder. This is a great advantage for if the trucks are piled with long lumber and high temperatures are carried it is impossible to set a hygrometer far enough back in the kiln to get a true reading. Operating the kiln then becomes a matter of guess work.

KILN DRYING USING THERMOSTATIC TEMPERATURE CONTROL.

The setting and carrying of the proper conditions in a kiln with hand control is very slow and uncertain but the operation is greatly simplified by using thermostatic control on the spray and coil in connection with a wet and dry bulb recording thermometer. The temperatures are set on a dial and are thermostatically controlled, while the temperature readings are taken from the recorder. This assures accurate control of the heat and humidity for the temperatures can be maintained within two degrees of the point set for. By having control of the circulation, heat, and humidity more severe conditions can be safely carried and faster and better drying obtained.

The bulbs from the instruments are placed at the hottest point in the kiln, halfway between the rail line and the ceiling.

In the instrument used the expansion of the liquid in the tube from the controller caused the capsular chamber to expand, opening on air valve in the air block, allowing the air to flow into the top of the valve in the steam line. This forces a rubber diaphram down and closes the steam valve. When the liquid cools the capsular chamber contracts, the valve and the air block closes releasing the pressure from the rubber diaphram and a spring around the steam opens the valve in the steam line. One valve works on the spray line controlling the wet bulb temperature and one on the coil controlling the dry bulb temperature.

The water for the wet bulb is supplied by a tank kep at a constant level.

Several makes of air actuated instruments are on the market but the general principle is the same.

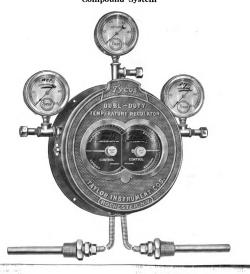
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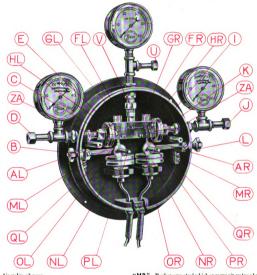
## Tycos Dubl-Duty Temperature Regulator Compound System

Compagning needs and the second



### Tycos Dubl-Duty Temperature Regulator-Continued Compound System

Showing the Simplicity of the Dubl-Duty Regulator Note construction of air-valve and the extra air-strainers on each side.



- Air-valve plunger. Air-valve plunger.
- Front-case lock-nut.
- Union nut.
- Air connection to condensation discharge valve.
  - Air strainer.
- -Air-valve spring. -Air-valve spring.
- Air-valve cap.
- Air-valve cap.
- Air valve. Air valve.
- Air strainer
- Air connection to temperature or live-steam
- control valve. Union nut.
- Front-case lock-nut.

- "MR"—Rocker-arm stud which engages air-valve plunger. "ML"—Rocker-arm stud which engages air-valve plunger.
- "—Capsular chamber (expanding member controls the opening and closing of air-valve "HR.")
  - Capsular chamber (expanding member controls the opening and closing of air-valve "HL.")
- "OR"-Temperature-adjusting cam.
- "ŏL" Temperature-adjusting cam.
- "PR"
  "PL"
  "OR" Adjusting-key post to which pointer is attached.

  Adjusting-key post to which pointer is attached.

  - Rocker arm and bracket for cam "OR."
    Rocker arm and bracket for cam "OL."
- Union spud (air inlet). Union nut.
- Main air strainer (not shown).
- "ZA" —Adjustable air-leak.

Tycos Wet-and-Dry-Bulb Recording Thermometers— Continued With Cistern-Feed Water System



BLUE PRINT OF INSTALLATION.

KEY A-9 WET AI A-14 RECORD NG P-4 DUBL-DUT Q-8 ARMOREL ACES Q-9 REGULA Q-12 CAPILLA Q-15 /8"S/GHT Q-16 WET AN R-I COMPRE R-2 AIR PRE R-4 AIR STR R-6 AIR STO R-7 AIR PET 5-1 STEAM S-3 WATER 5-4 WATER 5-5 HAND

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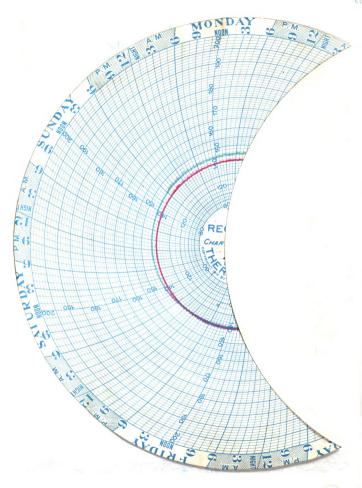
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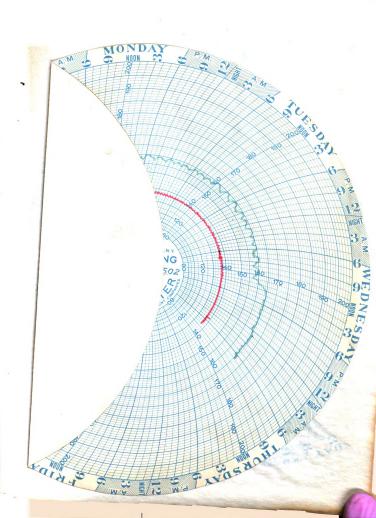
The following charts were taken from the first experimental runs, From these and following runs the best method of running a kiln was determined. This was previously described in the article. A twenty-four hour clock was used in the recorder for it was easier to see how closely the temperatures were controlled.

#### KILN RECORD

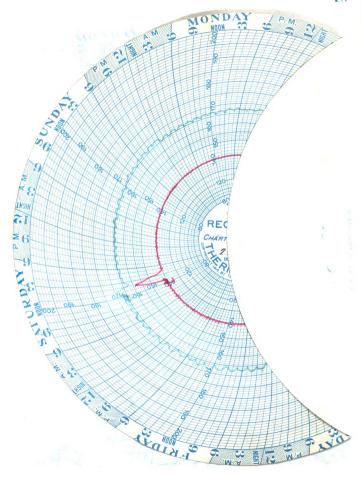
CHARGE NO. 44	KILN NO. 10	TRUCKS	7
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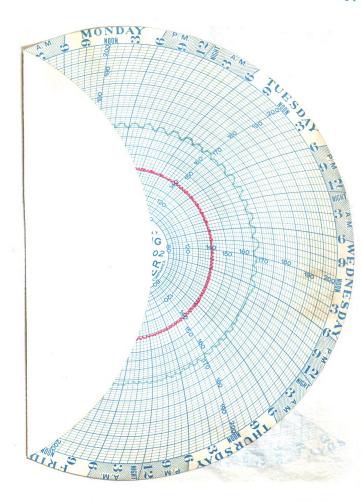
STEAM PRESSUR		RE				STEA	MING			SIZ	E	Soft maple					FEET					
Spra	V	100#			HRS. HRS.	_	18	-			19/						4					
DAYS	DATE	TIME OF READING	SPRAY	COIL	DAMP	FRESH	DEGREES WET BULB	PRES			JIRED %	FINAL MOIST CONT	14.43				1					
1	7/5/20	A. M. # P. M.										C. Mois	7.	60	2	6	10	2	Co	00	50	
2	6	7 A. M. 3 P. M.					140	152				C. M.	Test	1	2	1	7	9	2	7	1.	
3	1	7 A. M.					140	165	49			G. M.	Kiln					-			A	
4	8	// A. M. P. M.					140	165	49	3		ž	8					-			4	
5	9	J A. M.						168		7		G. M. C.	19-8					_				
б	10	7 A. M. 3 P. M.					140	-	44			 M	1									

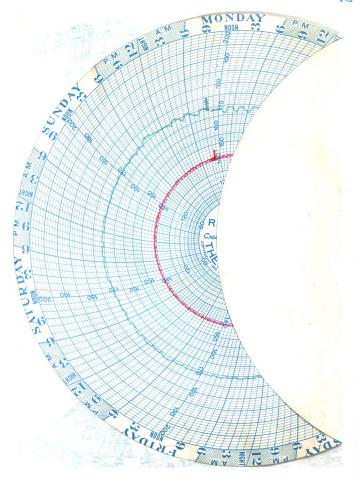


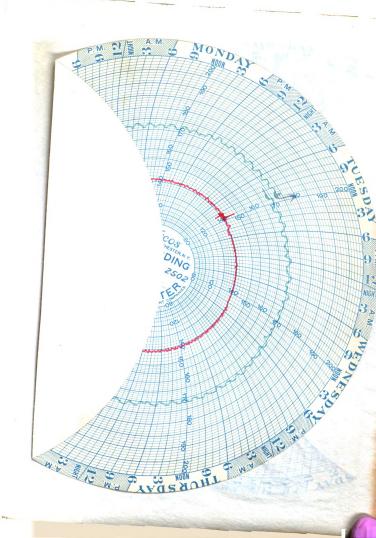


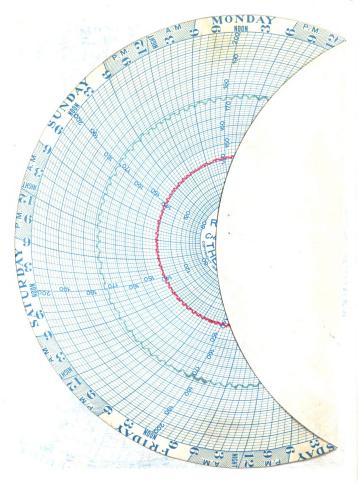
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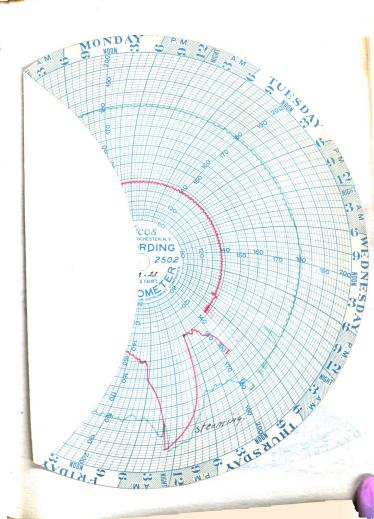


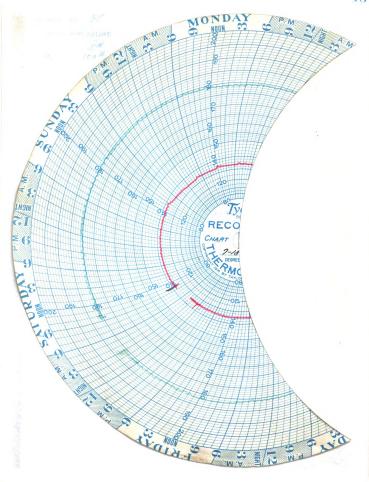












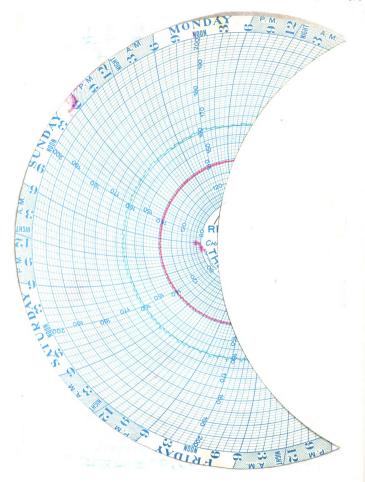
### KILN RECORD

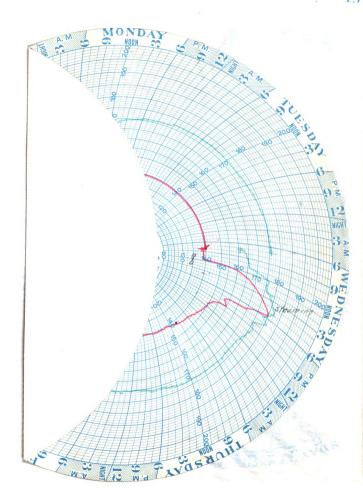
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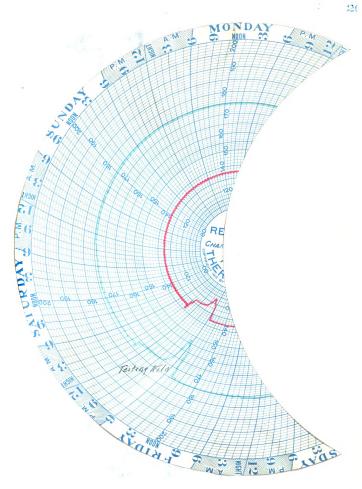
KILN NO. 10

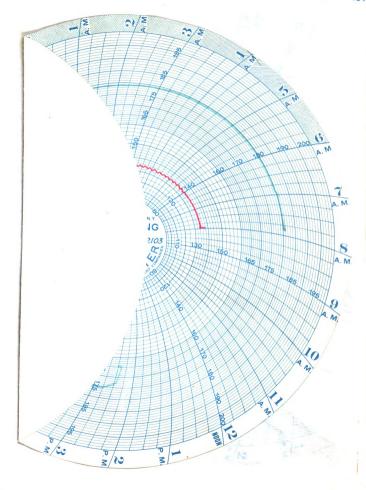
TRUCKS 7

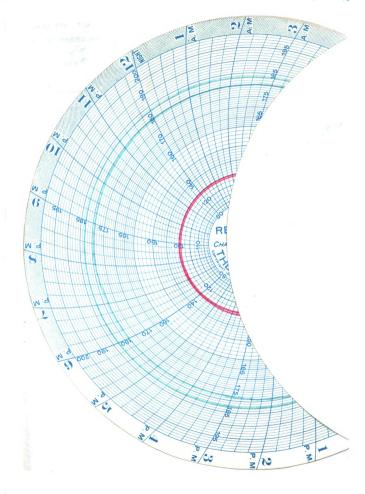
STEAM PRESSURE			STEAMING							SIZE			ND			FEET								
COIL		5-#			HRS.	PRO.					4/4		Sap Gum											
Spray		100#			100#			HRS.	FIN.	-	Nan	_	-				_	_		-	_			_
								-		1			-								_			
DAYS	DATE	TIME OF READING	SPRAY	COIL	DAMP	FRESH	DEGREES WET BULB	PRES	SENT		WHUM.	CONT	7-23.23	60	6	80	00	60	00	8%	60			
			in in	0	0	E.	n 2 8	BULB	ним.	BULB	ним.	FINAL Moist Con	1 1	4,	8.0	8	9	3	3	3.	0			
1	1/17/20	4 P. M.					140	160	56			· i	Tests	1	2	2.	4.	6	vi	N	4.1			
2	18	7 A. M. 4 P. M.					140	160				C.	10	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-			
3	19	7 A. M. 3 P. M.	-		-		140	175	38			Σ	11	-			-	_		-	-			
4	20	7 A. M.					135	125	33			Σ.												
5	21	7 A. M.					135	180	29			M. C.	23						- 2					
	+	P. M.					130	182	24			O.	7											
6	22	P. M.	-	-	-	-	-	7			-	O.	4100								100			
7		Р. М.										ij	947	0	×	0	13	6.3	2.2	3.4				
8		A. M. P. M.										Σ	11	0.0		10%	5.5	-	3	-	H			
9		A. M. P. M.			-	-			-	-		Σ.	Vistr 164	7.0	3.6	6,1	2.0	3.9	3	4.2				
10		A. M.										Σ.	91	0	2.7	1.	8.8	2.8	1.9	2.7				
11	+	P. M. A. M.		F								Δ.	tur	1	4	2	1	7	3	1				
	-	P. M. A. M.	-	-								Ö.	015											
12	-	р. м. л. м.	-	-			-	-	-		-	O.	M											
13	-	P. M.	-	1	-	-				-		· i							1					
14		P. M.	-	-	+							Σ		-	-	-	-	-	-		_			











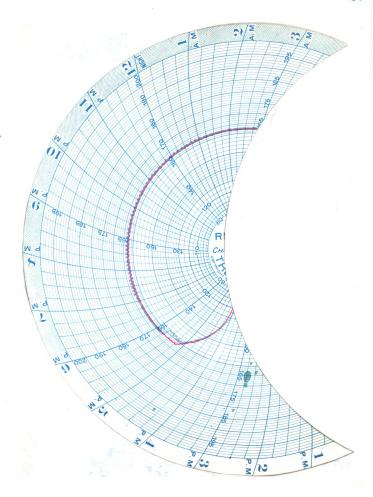
KILN RECORD

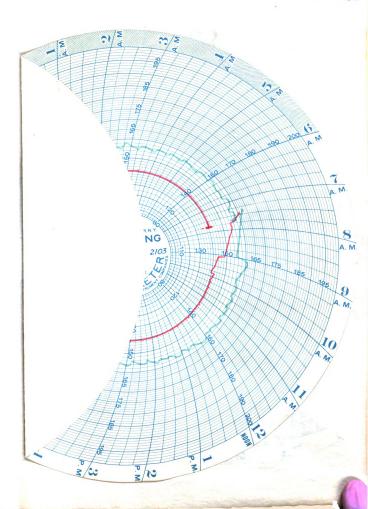
CHARGE NO. 46

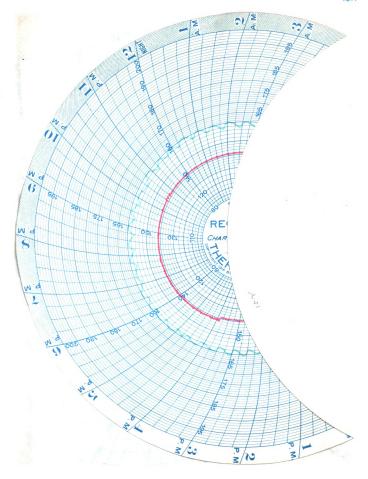
KILN NO. 10

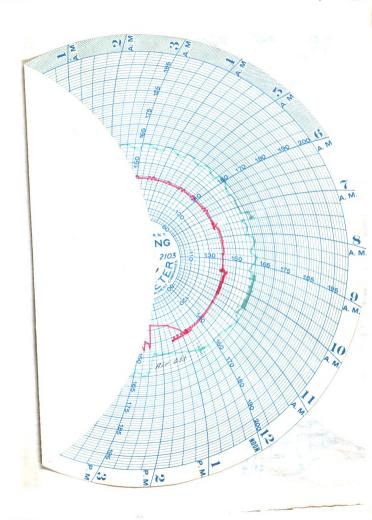
TRUCKS 7

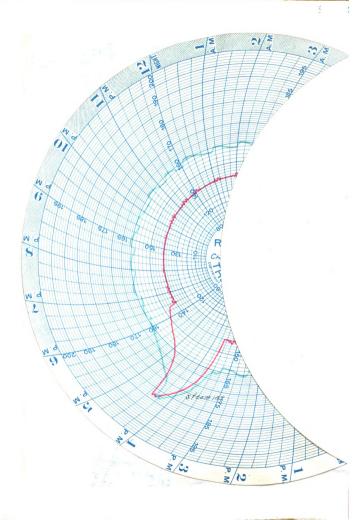
STEAM PRESSURE					STEAMING						SIZ	E		P	CINE	0		FEET						
COIL 5#													19	4		811	ch					20120		-
Spray		100#			HRS.	FIN.		Yone			/			217-11										
	-			+	_	_				-		_	+	5		_	1			-	_			
																10					-			
DAYS	DATE	TIME OF READING	SPRAY	COIL	DAMP	FRESH	DEGREES WET BULB	DRY	SENT HUM.	DRY BULB	WHUM.	FINAL MOIST CONT		10 16		5.00%	6.00	200	0	2.0%	1.5%	,		
1	7/23	A. M.		_									7	Toote										
2	24	7 A. M.					162					Z.	10.1	1/1	,		2	3	1 %	ė	0	-		
3	25	2 P. M.					140	156				M.	14	1										
4	+	9 P. M.		_		-	140	158	60			O.	X	60	8	00	00					1		
	26	7 P. M.					140	158				· i	0	6,00	0	. 5	0		-			-		
5	27	7 A. M.					140	158	60			Ď.	,	)	8.	0	0		-					
6	28	P. M.			-		140	160	56		-	ž	411				10/01							
7	29	/0 A. M					140	162	54			Σ.	3				10							
8	30	7 A. M.						162				N.	1											
9	31	7 A. M.		_			138	174	37			O.M												
	8/1	7 A. M.					138	175			-	O. M										1		
10	+	7 A. M.					138	176				· i												
11	2	₹ P. M.					128	177	34			O,	-		-	-	-					-		
12	3	7 A. M. 3 P. M.					138	180	32			E O'S	200		16	51	SN	1	1.00	10		-		
13	4	2 A. M.		_			140	180	33			20	193	0.7	6.0	1.6	64	6.0	17. 2.	4.		-		
14	5	2 A. M.					140	180	33			200	101	4.10	100	5.1	50%	2.0	40	2.9				

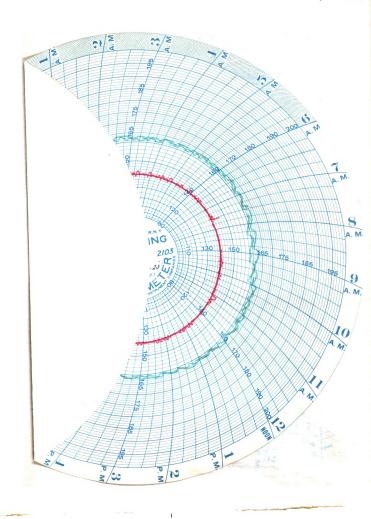


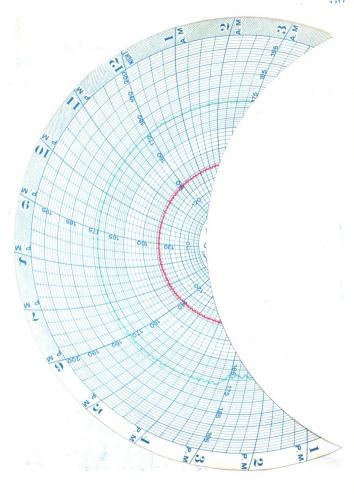


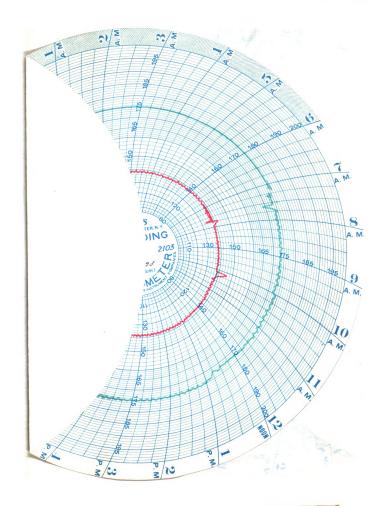


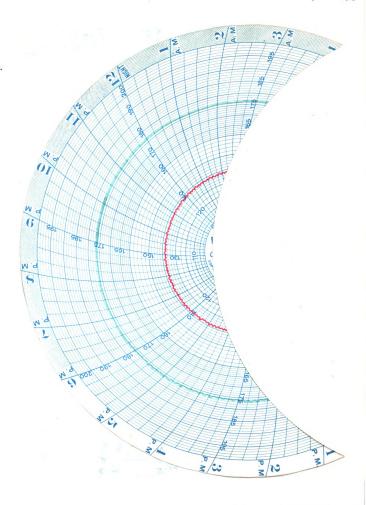


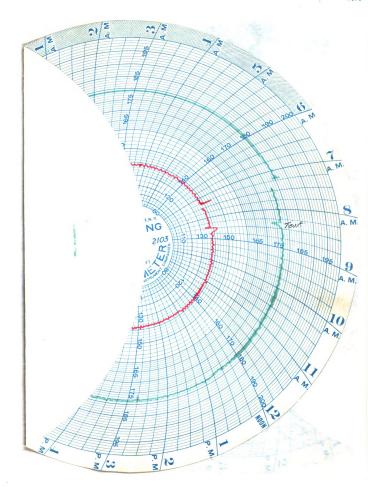


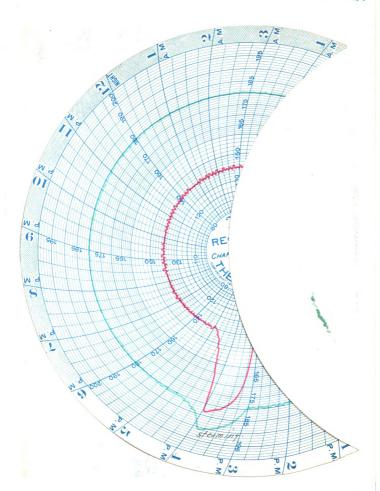


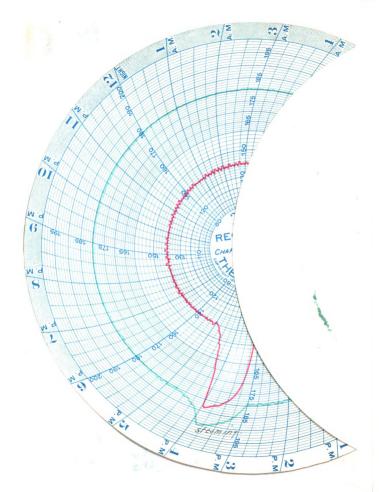


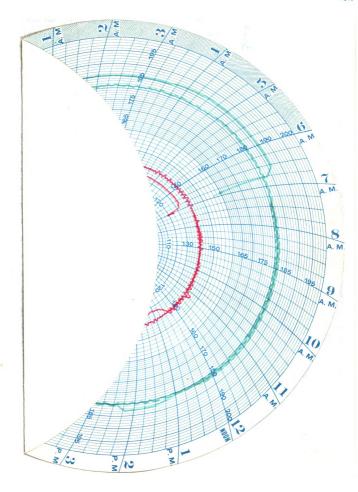












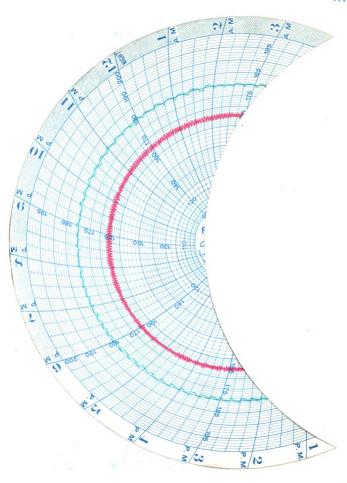
## KILN RECORD

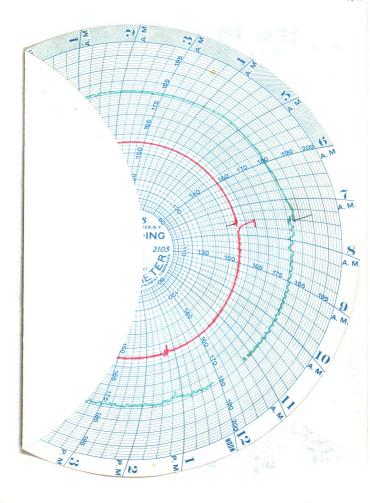
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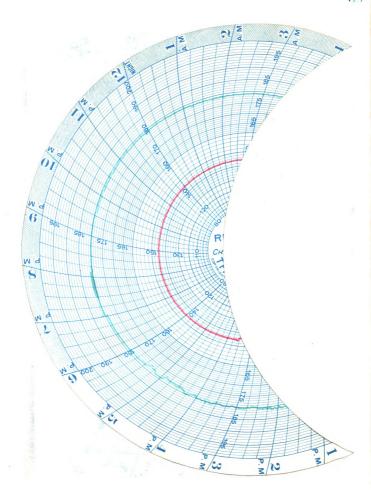
KILN NO. 10

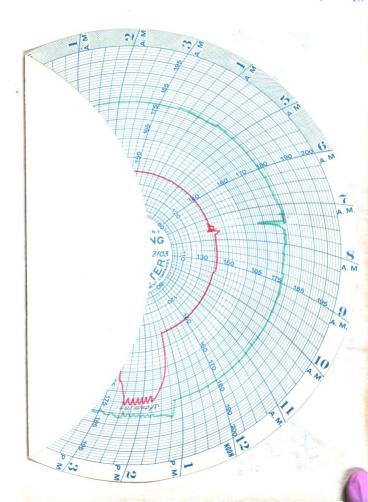
TRUCKS 7

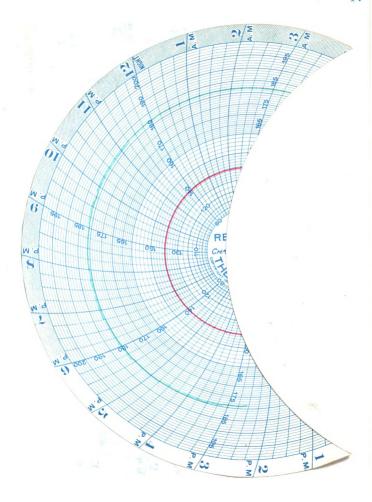
FEET			KIND				SIZE				STEAMING					125501	STEAM PRES		
			Sap Gum			4/4			3		HRS. PRO.				54	-	COIL		
			7				77			None			HRS. FIN.			100 th		,	Spray
						23	FINAL MOIST CON1		REQU DRY BULB		PRES DRY BULB	DEGREES WET BULB	FRESH	DAMP	COIL	SPRAY	TIME OF READING	DATE	DAYS
							MOIS										10 A. M.	8/6/23	,
00000						11-8	· i			67	180	165					4 P. M.	/23	1
6.6 60	3	00	00	00	Co	P	Σ			67	180	165					7 A. M.	M	ō.
1, 1, 2,	10	0	0	0	5.0%		· i			51	180	155					€ P. M.	7	2
11 50.2	"	1	,	4	2	1/2	Σ.			43	182	150					7 A. M.	8	3
1 11 1	4.	1.	0,	0	V	10	· i			38	180	145					3 P. M.	8	3
2 1. 2	2	"	3	-	1	,	Σ.			34	179	140					7 A. M.	9	4
						1	0										₽ P. M.	7	,
						1	E.			34	179	140					7 A. M.	10	5
							o'			25	128	140					3 P. M.	10	
							ž			31	183	140					7 A. M.	11	6
0 9 0 1	20, 1						ı,										P. M.	//	
						23	Σ										A. M		7
						1	· i							_	_		Р. М.		
						1-1	Σ							-	-		A. M.		8
						-	· i							1			P. M.	1	
						.00	M. C.										A. M.		9
						1/2	Ü							-	-		P. M.		
						0	Α.					-		-			A. M.		10
							· i				-			-			P. M.		
		00				Orstu	Σ	-		-				-			A. M.		11
		0	1	6.2	4.0	0	· i				-			-			Р. М.	-	
		6	2	1	1		Σ	-									A. M.		12
		'				V	Ü.					-		-	-		P. M.	ļ	14
		2				14/5/0	Σ							-			A. M.		13
		10				8	· i				-	-		-	-		P. M.	-	-13
		1			-	0	Σ										A. M.		1.4



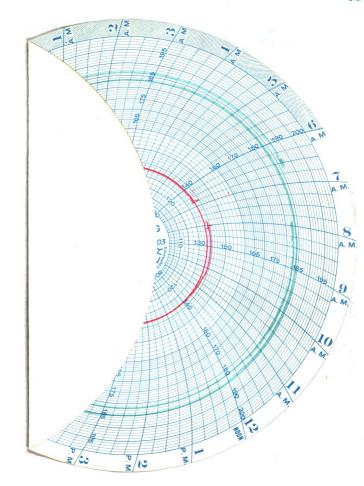








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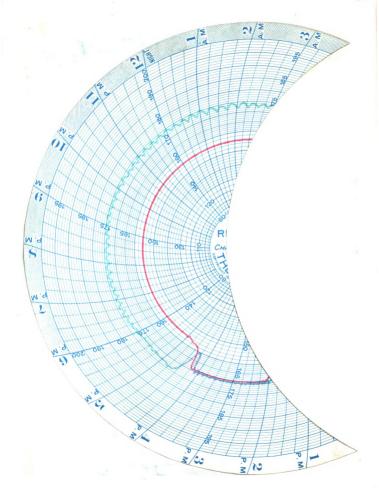
KILN RECORD

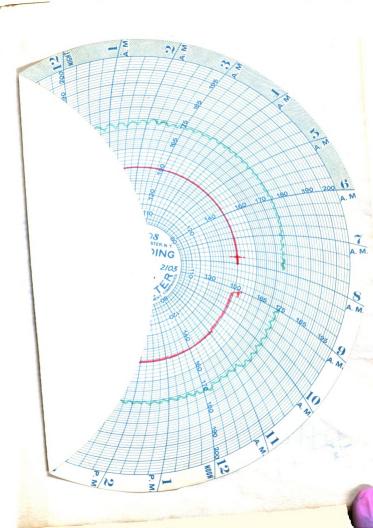
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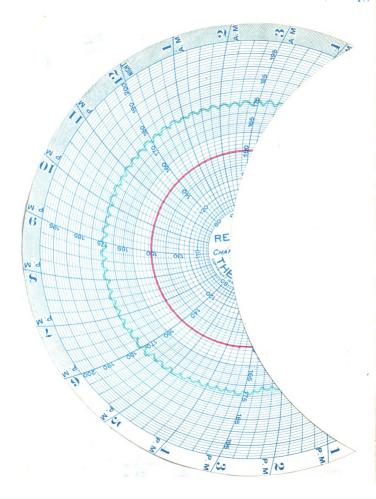
KILN NO. 10

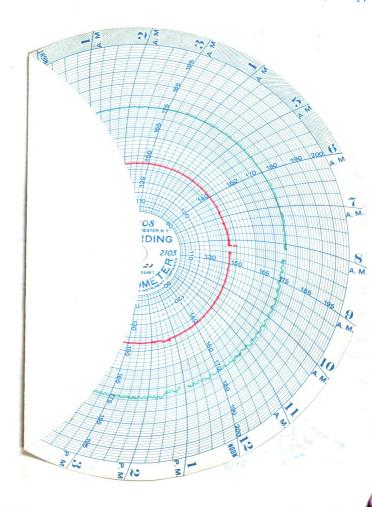
TRUCKS 7

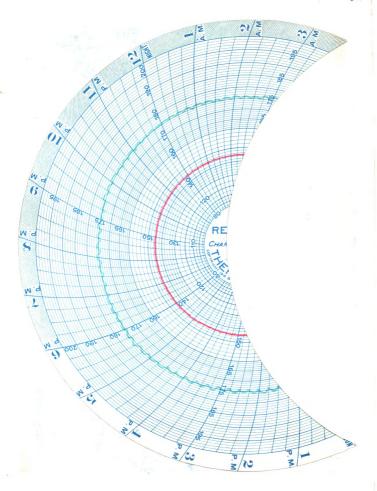
STEAM PRESSURE										SIZE KIND							FE	ET			
COIL		5#		HRS.	PRO.		5			19/	4	50.	FF	na	0/e	_					
Spray	,	100 #		HRS.	FIN.	/	1010	_	-	,		sost Maple		+					-		
																					_
un .	l in	TIME	<b>&gt;</b>	7 6~	I.	SIL B	PRES	SENT	REQU	IRED	۶	3	T			+	Т	T	T	T	
DAYS	DATE	TIME OF READING	SPRAY	DAMP AIR	FRESH	DEGREES WET BULB	DRY BULB	" ним.	DRY BULB	" ним.	FINAL MOIST CON	1-22-23							- 0 1		
1	1/1/2	11 2 P. M.				100	170	100				1	0	00	00	0	0	0	6	00	,
2	1/25	/ // ///					174	60			M. O.	Tests	0,0	1	3	5.0	4	i	4	9	
2	14	3 P. M.				150	170			_	M. C.	10	1	d	2.	1.	2.	i	0	4	i
3	15	3 P. M.				150	174	51			ı,	1	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	1
4	16	7 A. M.		-	-	150	175	50	_		Σ	11					4	-			-
5	17	2 A. M.				145	175	44			M.										
	-	J P. M.		+	-	145	175	44	-		М. С.									1	
6	18	<b>∮</b> P. M.				135	175	33			8.47 x	7.5	2.7	7	13						ĺ
7	19	7 A. M.										1	1	"	10	-					ŀ
8	20	7 A. M. 3 P. M.				135	175	24			. O.										
	-	7 A. M.						26			8.4.0	6.7	16.4	87	99						
9	21	3 P. M.	-	-	-	135	183	26	-		·		1		-						ĺ
10	22	P. M.				100	111	20			N. C	_	-	2	12	-	-	-			1
11		A. M.	-		-	_	-	-	-		E. C P.	13,1	14.	10.7	13						
12		А. М.									M.C.					36		634	100	-	
14	-	P. M.	-		-	-		-	-		8-12 P	13.6	14.6	12.7	13,6	374					
13		Р. М.			-		-				O. M		1	1	1						
14		A. M. P. M.									E:	00	~	7	10	-	-		33		1
		A. M.									HE PARTY	18.8	1.3	7	9.2				198	5.84	

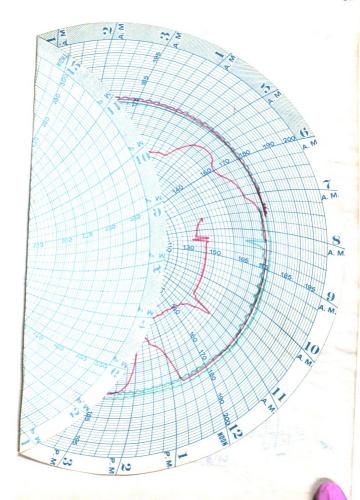




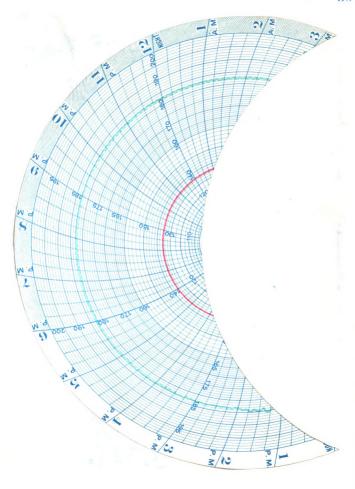


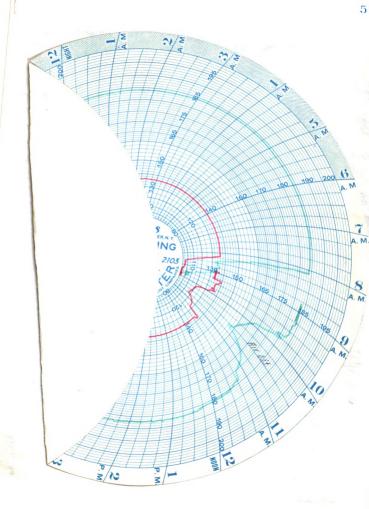














## KILN RECORD

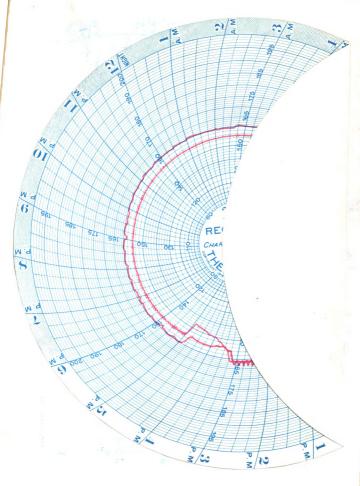
CHARGE No. 49

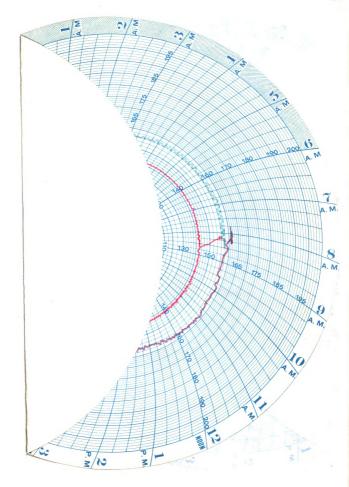
KILN NO. 10

TRUCKS 7 STEAM PRESSURE STEAMING SIZE KIND FEET 5# COIL 12/4 HRS. PRO. Soft maple 100# HRS. FIN. None Sprov 0000 PRESENT REQUIRED DAYS TIME OF E WET BULB AIR MOIST CON COIL DRY % BULB HUM DRY % BULB HUM 6 924. M. 10.5 KS 120 500 M. 155/60 87 Ü 15 142 157 65 7 A. M. ž 2 3 P. M. 142 156 67 ΰ 7 A. M. 142 158 64 ž 3 25 P. M. 142 158 64 ö 7 A. M. 142 160 60 ż 4 26 142 160 60 3 P. M. ö Z A. M. 142 160 60 ž 5 27 3 P. M. 140 163 53 ij 18 19 9 7 A. M. 139 164 49 ż 6 28 J P. M. 6.2 139 165 48 ö 26 7 A. M 139 170 45 ž 7 29 € P. M. 142 173 42 ö moisture 7 A. M. 142 175 40 Σ 8 30 2 P. M. 142 175 40 Ü 7 A. M. 132 174 31 ž 9 3/ 9 P. M. 140 181 32 ů, 7 A. M. 141 184 32 ž 10 € P. M. 140 181 33 ú 7 A. M. 134 183 26 2 ž 3 P. M. 134 185 24 2 A. M. 134 188 21 3 έ 12 J P. M. 134 188 21 ö 7 A. M. 138 184 30 ž 4 13 P. M. ıi. A. M. ž 14 P. M.

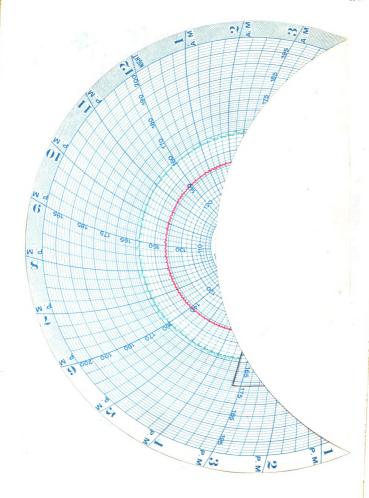
Graduations Not is chart.

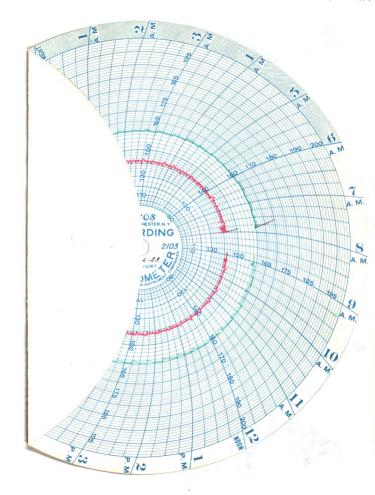
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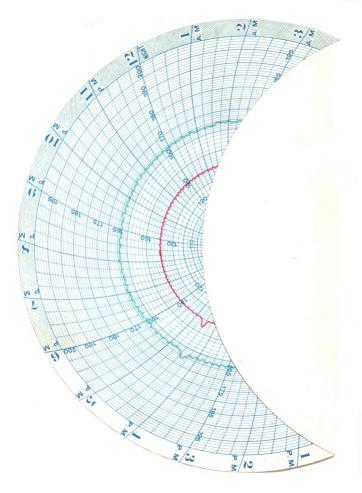


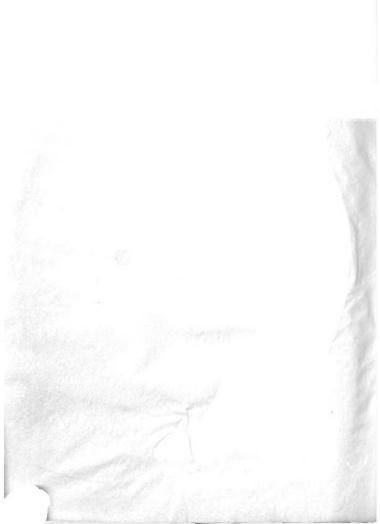


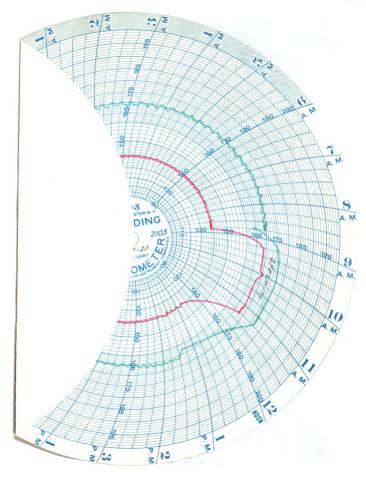


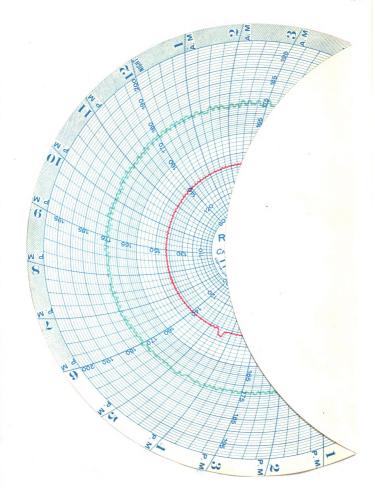


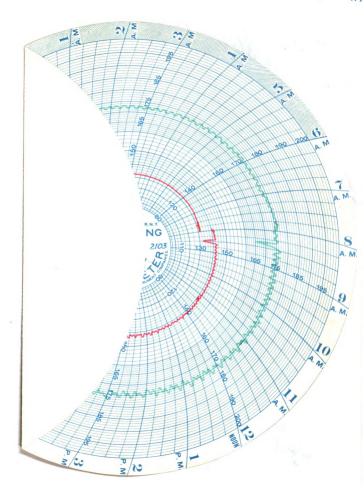


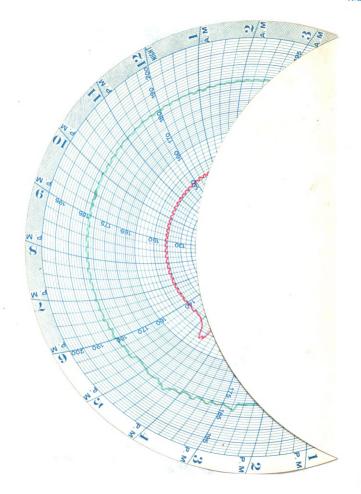


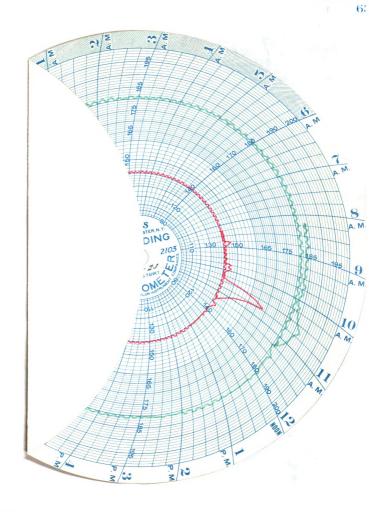


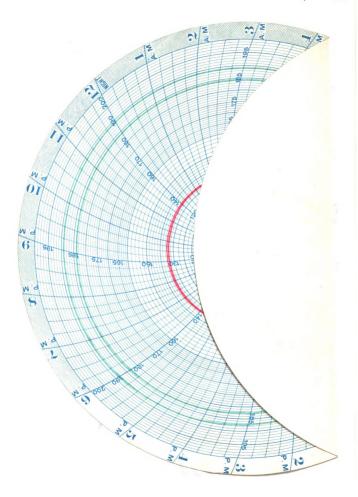


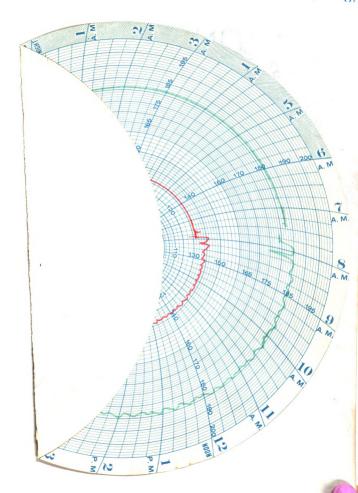












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Other results obtained by using double duty thermostatic temperature control are as follows:

4/4	Cottonwood	from	41.0 %	to	7.0	%	in five days
4/4	W	Ħ	40.0%	to	7.0	%	in four days
4/4	Chestnut	Ħ	47.0 %	to	7.0	%	" seven "
4/4	Oak	Ħ	38.0 %	to	6.5	%	" six "
4/4	•	n	42.0 %	to	6.0	010	" seven "
4/4	Sap Gum	n	18.0 %	to	6.0	%	" three "
4/4	Sap Gum	Ħ	40.0 %	to	6.0	%	" five "
4/4	n n	W	43.0 %	to	6.0	d'o	" six "
4/4	n n	Ħ	21.0 %	to	6.0	%	"four "
8/4	Hard Maple	*	20.0 %	to	4.0	%	" five "
8/4	Soft Maple	*	44.0 %	to	6.0	of o	" nine "
8/4	Birch	W	40.0 %	to	6.5	%	" eleven "
8/4	Std.Sap Gum	**	32.0 %	to	6.0	%	" nine "
8/4	w	*	32.0%	to	6.0	%	" eleven "
8/4	Ħ	W	32.0 %	to	6.0	%	" eleven "
8/4	W	n	44.0 %	to	6.5	%	" fifteen"
8/4	n	*	44.0 "	to	6.5	%	" fifteen"
10/4	Elm	W	37.0 %	to	6.5	%	" nine "
10/4	n	Ħ	49.0 %	to	7.0	%	" eleven "
10/4	White Ash	11	48.0 %	to	7.0	%	" eleven "
10/4	Birch	Ħ	36.0 %	to	6.0	%	" eleven "
12/4	White Ash	**	<b>3Q.</b> 0 %	to	6.0	%	" nine "
12/4	W	W	33.0 %	to	6.0	%	" thirteen days
12/4	W	*	34.0 %	to	6.0	%	" fourteen "

All distribution tests were 8% or below on the center section.

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## CONCLUSIONS.

The following conclusions show the benefits derived from using double duty thermostatic temperature control.

- 1. Definite control of wet and dry bulb temperatures regardless of outside weather conditions or changes in steam pressure. Consequently less chance of spoiling the lumber thru temperatures not remaining as set.
- 2. Less time required and easier to set the desired conditions in the kiln.
- 3. Faster drying by safely using a higher temperature and lower humidity.
- 4. Allows greater evaporation by not having a constant supply of steam going into the kiln to hold the wet bulb temperature.
- 5. A kiln started late in the day can be steamed at 85% humidity over night instead of 100% as it would be if operating by hand, thus allowing some drying to take place. Excessive steaming prolongs the drying period.
- 6. Less case hardening consequently faster and better drying.

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