

## **19. Purchase of Sash and Door Plant in Trail 1966**

This all began with Max Obal needing to rebuild his recently fire-destroyed Sash & Door Shop at Bear Creek a mile East of Trail. He knew Russel and Lawrence who had purchased windows from him. So, it evolved that I designed a simple concrete block building that would reuse the existing foundation. This meant forming over the damaged concrete and placing reinforcing that would support a new structure of masonry and rough timber. My first real design job albeit under rather questionable baseline.

It was built but then we found out that Max did not have money to pay us and so discussion started as to how we could buy the building and take over his non-existing business. I am sure negotiations back in the 1600s between Traders and indigenous peoples would have been more business-like.

There was a strange final deal which involved us buying some of his stock, land and building and we started paying monthly to establish a home office for the first time and operate a Sash & Door business that neither one of us knew anything about in January 1966.

There was no business really and so we hired Max Obal to travel around to see if he could find some places that needed windows and doors. Max had his own design of an Obal Panarama Sashless window that we used as a starting base.

We had no cash.....!

I sat there wondering what the next step would be when our perennial Electrical Contractor, Gordon Laarz, showed up for a cup of coffee and a chat. He had always contracted the Electrical for Russel and Lawrence and considered us as friends. He asked a question "well how is it going?"

I looked at him and responded with "I have no idea if we can survive the first month."

Gordon left without saying anything and I assumed that would be the end of that. Two hours later, Gordon comes back and drops two cheques on the counter which totalled \$10,000. I said what is all that about?"

"Well, you said you needed money, so there it is!" he smiled.

"How do we pay it back?" I was really taken aback.

"Whenever you are able" was his quick response.

And so, it was with how the first financial shareholder of Verigin Industries Limited which eventually replaced L. W. Verigin Construction Ltd now that we were also in the manufacturing business as well as a "marginal design" organization.

That was the beginning of the original Obal Glass operation of Verigin Industries Limited that started with an original 6,000 square foot plant and:

- a. Two expansions
  - i. 4,000 square feet and then finally the full sized 12,000 square foot plant.
  - ii. Manufacture of wood windows and prehung doors in the Kootenays.
- b. Eventually Millwork Plant
  - i. Wooden windows were eventually displaced by the plastic framed window and something else needed to replace this base.
  - ii. Marbella Pacific Construction West Ltd (MPCWL) needed Millwork for its large construction base on the Lower Mainland and purchased the Plant from Verigin Industries Limited which had moved into dormancy when I placed my attention to MPCWL.



The final disposition was when MPCWL sold the Plant to an existing rental operation. This took place after I left MPCWL.

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