

The pipe on the beach. Intake or outfall?

In recent times Cuevas Council has gone to quite considerable lengths and expense to put information boards along the coast, but they have omitted to make any mention of the coal-fired electricity generating plant situated between the former Guardia barracks and the headquarters of the Argentífera.



The power station in its heyday. Anon.



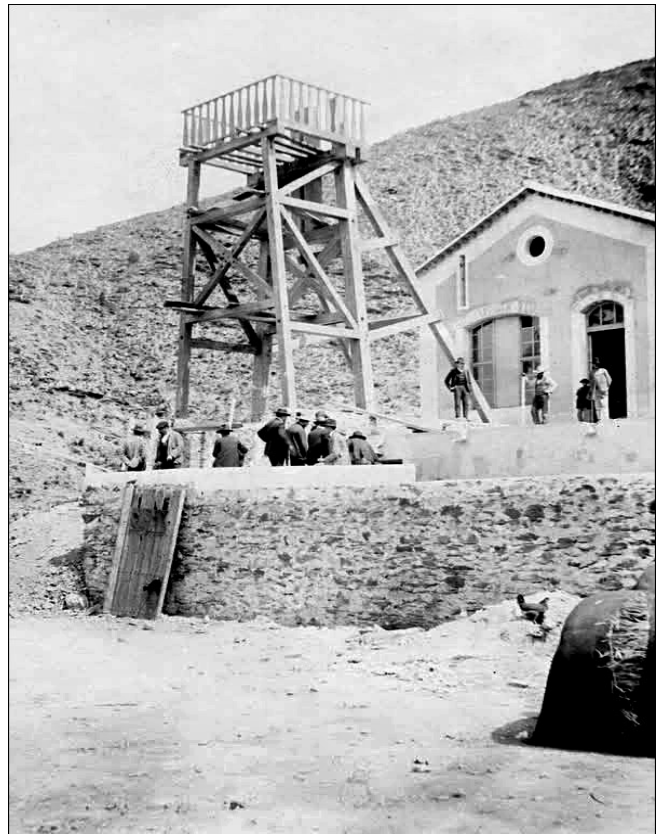
All that remains today.

This power station built by the Argentífera made possible the mechanization of the local mining industry, powering aero cables, inclined planes, and lifting mechanisms, thus dragging the Almagrera into the 20th century. The Jacoba mine in the Jaroso was the first to have a 25 horse-power motor installed. Curiously, the Jacoba had been forced by the shareholders of the company that actually owned the mine to install a steam engine the previous year. The commitment to install it was part of the lease agreement with the Argentífera and the shareholders were impatient with their con-compliance.

NEW DISCOVERIES

The Jacoba before the winding gear was installed which was to be steam operated for just a year.

Anon



The 1950's Jaroso substation was built almost in front of the Argentífera's.

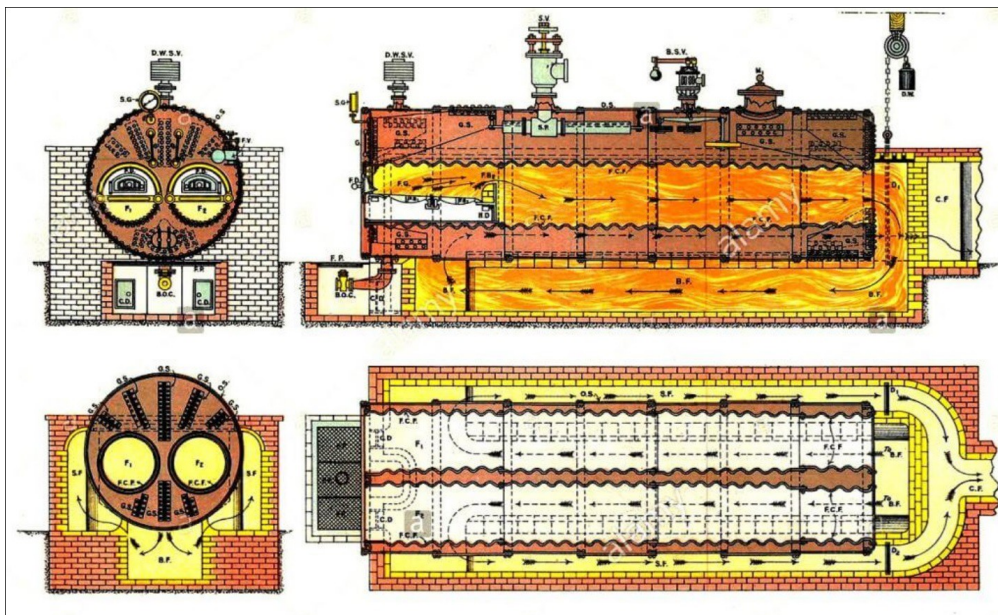
A G Jódar.

While researching something entirely different in the press archives, I found an article in *El Minero de Almagrera* dated 20 April 1902 detailing the machinery used in it the power station.

According to the article, steam, generated by 3 Lancashire system boilers, having a combined heating surface of 102 square meters, ran three Swiderski 200 horsepower compound steam engines. These in turn drove three Schuckert alternating current dynamos. Three power lines carried the current to three secondary stations situated in the Barrancos Jaroso, Pinalbo and Francés. The fuel to power these was imported as coal which was then coked at the Argentífera's San Andrés smelter at Palomares.



The 30 metre high chimney between the Guardia barracks and the Arentífera's headquarters. Anon

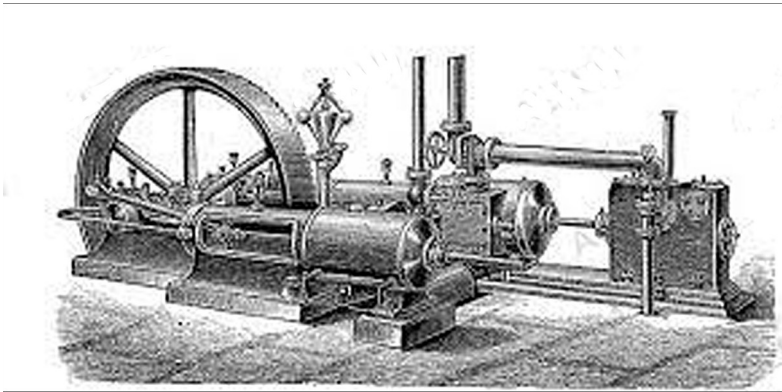


The Lancashire system boiler.

mechanicaljungle.org

However, it was this line in the newspaper that really caught my eye, “The 3 (Swiderski) machines together deliver steam to a surface condenser, which takes water from a shaft in communication with the sea, returning it to the sea by means of a pipe”.

NEW DISCOVERIES



A Swiderski steam engine.

picyl.com



The pipe on the beach.

This would indicate that the pipe on the beach, generally accepted to be the water feed pipe, is in fact the outfall pipe. On reflection, this makes sense since fluctuating winds, sea currents and phases of the moon could all interrupt the flow rate of water into it.

However, two questions remain. Where is the shaft situated, and where is the communicating gallery to the sea?

The search goes on