

History of the Forest Seed Husk Jatznick

1923

After WW I huge amounts of wood had to be delivered to the coal-fields in France and Belgium in order to make reparations. The claims of the victor powers could only be accomplished by cutting down large areas, especially in the Brandenburg and Pomeranian forests. The cutting took such effect that forest-officers protested against that ruinous exploitation in the February issue of "Forst- und Jagdwesen" in 1923. The clearings had to be afforested. So there was demand for large quantities of seed. Conifers were favoured, they ranked as rapidly growing and easy to cultivate.



In the year 1922 the construction of *Forstsamendarre Jatznick* began.

The place for the kiln, apart from the central location and the low building costs, was finally influenced by Johannes Thielecke, since April 1922 head forester of the state in Rothemühl.. He was engaged in procurement of seeds and breeding of plants since 1916 in Lehnin and later in the Prussian Ministry of Agriculture. Direction of the building project was given to government official Cuno von Pentz. He had been occupied with the construction of ten drying-kilns since the first one by order of the Prussian government in 1902. The projects gave him extensive knowledge about construction and function of kilns. The principle of the "safety-kiln", harmonizing biological and physical factors, was applied to build the *Forstsamendarre Jatznick*.

1935

On the night of December the 28th, 1935 the kiln in Jatznick burnt down to the foundation-walls and the storehouse for cones was totally destroyed. Only the office- and dwelling-building remained intact. According to eye-witness reports the fire started at the smokestack, although it had been secured against sparks in 1931.



1936-37

Reconstruction was decided in spring 1936. It was supervised by the Prussian Surveyor's Office in Greifswald. The Minister of Finance placed it to the company "Rambow Dampfsägerei und Baugeschäft" from Ferdinandshof on May, the 25th.



Forestry Superintendent Müller-Weisker in Stettin confirmed the offer for the forest administration. Timber was supplied in an exchange method: The Rambow Company delivered sawed and well-seasoned timber from their stock and got 1.6 times the quantity in return from state-owned forests. The owner of the company was present whilst the cutting and often took part in selecting the trunks.

During reconstruction Cuno von Pentz, the inventor of the safety-kiln, was consulted as well, because the storehouse for cones should be converted from three to five storeys. Cuno von Pentz couldn't experience the reconstructed kiln; he died on September the 3rd, 1936.

Mainly pine-wood was used for rebuilding. The thresholds on the ground floor, the supporting beams rested upon, and the stairs were made from oak-wood. Costs for carpenters' work amounted to 18.195 Reichsmark.

1945

In the evening of April 27, 1945 refugees and military units got jammed in the area of Jatznick station. The last military train which had left Pasewalk stood on the junction track of the kiln.

Soviet bombers low-level attacked the station and the sidetracked train. The assault killed several people and caused great damage to property around the station.

The dwelling- and office house of the kiln was almost totally destroyed, and the roofs of the other buildings got heavily damaged. With the destruction of the office building most of the documents and records went up in flames.

Kiln-drying collapsed and further production of seed was not possible until the end of war. There are no particulars about the whereabouts of the staff.

1952

1952 was a year of incisive change for the *Forstsamendarre Jatznick*: The abolition of the confederation, the foundation of districts and federal management and, connected with that, different conditions of organization. The kiln became a branch of the forest district Torgelow (see picture on the right).



The planned reconditioning wasn't carried out. Already authorized construction measures had to be applied for again, and material wasn't delivered because of altered priorities. Work was characterized by missing replacement parts and makeshift on one hand, and usually good production results on the other.

Since the Mid-fifties the germinating power of the seed was usually at around 85 - 95 %. In average 4.850 kg of seeds were delivered per year. In 1955 5.860 kg of high-grade seeds of conifer trees were produced: An amount of 203.450 Marks, which was of great economical value for the GDR.

1965

In 1964 the kiln was extensively controlled by the superior agency. Production of seeds was rated good, and the kiln got the attribute: "*Compliance with the appreciation rules guaranteed*".

There was still deficiency in social reach: Sanitary facilities and day-rooms left much to be desired. From there a new social building with two company dwellings was annexed in 1965.



From '65 on the *Forstsamendarre Jatznick* was responsible for the entire supply of the surrounding forest plants with conifer seeds.

In February '67 kiln-drying had to be dropped for nearly a year; the firing system with partly burned out pre-heating cells broke down.

1973

With a new storehouse, constructed in 1973, seeds were shifted from the basement into the new building. The store was in use until '98.

Reconditioning was done only temporarily; for all that the kiln in Jatznick was usually one of the best, compared to the other four big drying-kilns (Flöha, Tabarz, Salzwedel and Annaburg) in the former socialistic competition.

Seed-production in Jatznick met international interest as well, as it often was basis for scientific research.

Successful long-term tests concerning storage have been done here with seeds of pine, fir and Douglasia. Seeds of fir-trees and Douglasia have been stored up to 12 years without impairing the germ-cells. Pine-seed showed no loss of quality, even after 27 years of storage.



As to Douglasia the *Forstsamendarre Jatznick* is the only one.

1992

With the reunion in 1990 the whole economic structure on the territory of the former GDR changes. Federal forest plants are shut down. Their duties are taken over by forestry superintendent's offices since January 1992.

The kiln in Jatznick is now owned by the federal state Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Eight employees are occupied with maintenance and reorganisation of the seeds. In June the kiln joins the "Kontrollvereinigung für forstliches Saat- und Pflanzgut e.V." and in 1993 it enters the monument-list of the former district Pasewalk.



Public interest in the technical monument *Forstsamendarre Jatznick* - also by showing rounds during the production process - is growing.

Machines and units are provided, to process seeds of leaf-wood and fruit, too. In 1996 common birch is worked up for the first time.

Forestry office Rothemühl

1998

With the help of employees of the forestry office Rothemühl and specialized local plants cooling-cells are installed in the basement of the storehouse in 1998, to lower energy costs and to improve working conditions. Construction-management is taken over by the Surveyor's Office in Neubrandenburg.

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary, the national convention of kiln management is held in Jatznick in September '98, where a study concerning the further prospect of the kiln is presented: The *Forstsamendarre Jatznick* shall be preserved as a historic place of production and ought to be extended into a "Place of Communication, Teaching and meeting".

On July, the 3rd the "Förderverein Samendarre Jatznick e.V." is founded, to include the kiln into the development of the Uecker-Randow-Region, to pursue the touristic aspect and to give economic impulsion.



2001

On September 28, 2001 the Minister of Agriculture of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Till Backhaus and the district president of the Uecker-Randow-Kreis Siegfried Wack sign a co-operation agreement to reform the kiln into a "Place of historic production, communication, teaching and meeting".



It's the intention of the management to keep the production alive, as well as to create a collaboration with the residents of the Euroregion Pomerania. Thus the kiln becomes a place where aspects of forestry, wood-economy, agriculture and active nature protection can be conveyed. Experts and interested laymen will be informed about promoting an intact environment using natural resources and the latest achievements in ecological research. Within the scope of European integration the *Forstsamendarre Jatznick* becomes a modern centre of communication.

2002

With handing over the first grant by Minister Till Backhaus to District President Siegfried Wack on July the 18th, 2002, rebuilding- and conservation measures begin.

The investment totals 3.2 million Euro. Architect's office Roth in Ueckermünde is commissioned with the planning and the outline is accepted in April 2004.



2004 - 2006

We were able to start the reconstruction of the husk just by the day of the on 4th August 2004, on witch we got the information, that we will have money out of the Common Initiative INTERRAG III A.

In September 2004 the Minister of Economy, Mr. Ebnet, gave us officially the co-finance contract.

In May 2005 we started the demolition works.

On 29th September 2005 we fixed the foundation – stone under the building for tourism items.

The Minister of Agriculture of Mecklenburg – Vorpommern, Mr. Till Backhaus on 14th December 2006 handed over the reconstructed Husk for using.