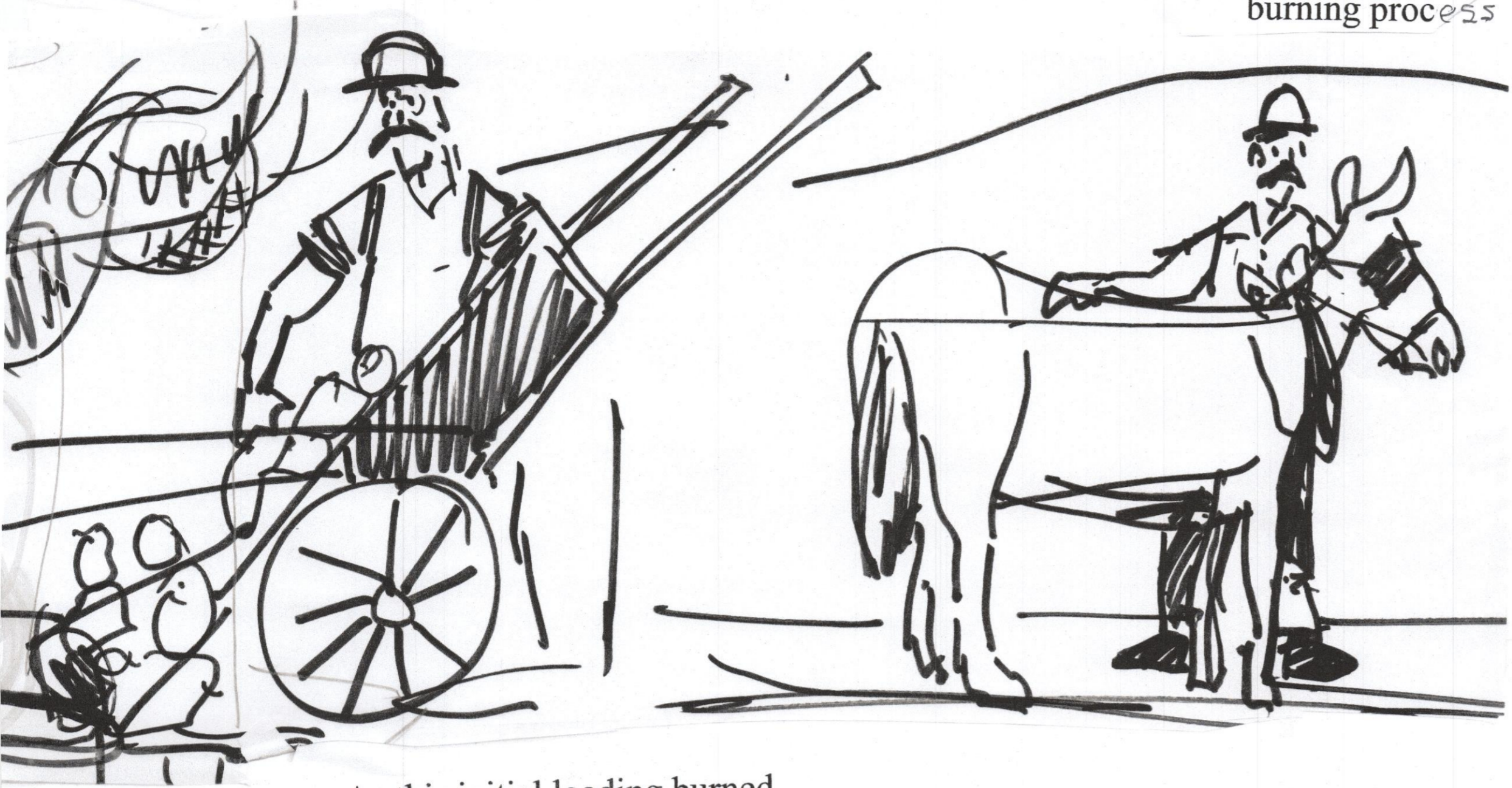


Lime Kiln

Should be a font reminiscent of 19th century type

The Process

The lime burning process started at the "hopper", the area at the kiln top where the marble and fuel, (mostly wood), were loaded in to the kiln furnace. Layer after layer until the kiln was full. The wood below was ignited and the rising hot air helped start the baking or burning process

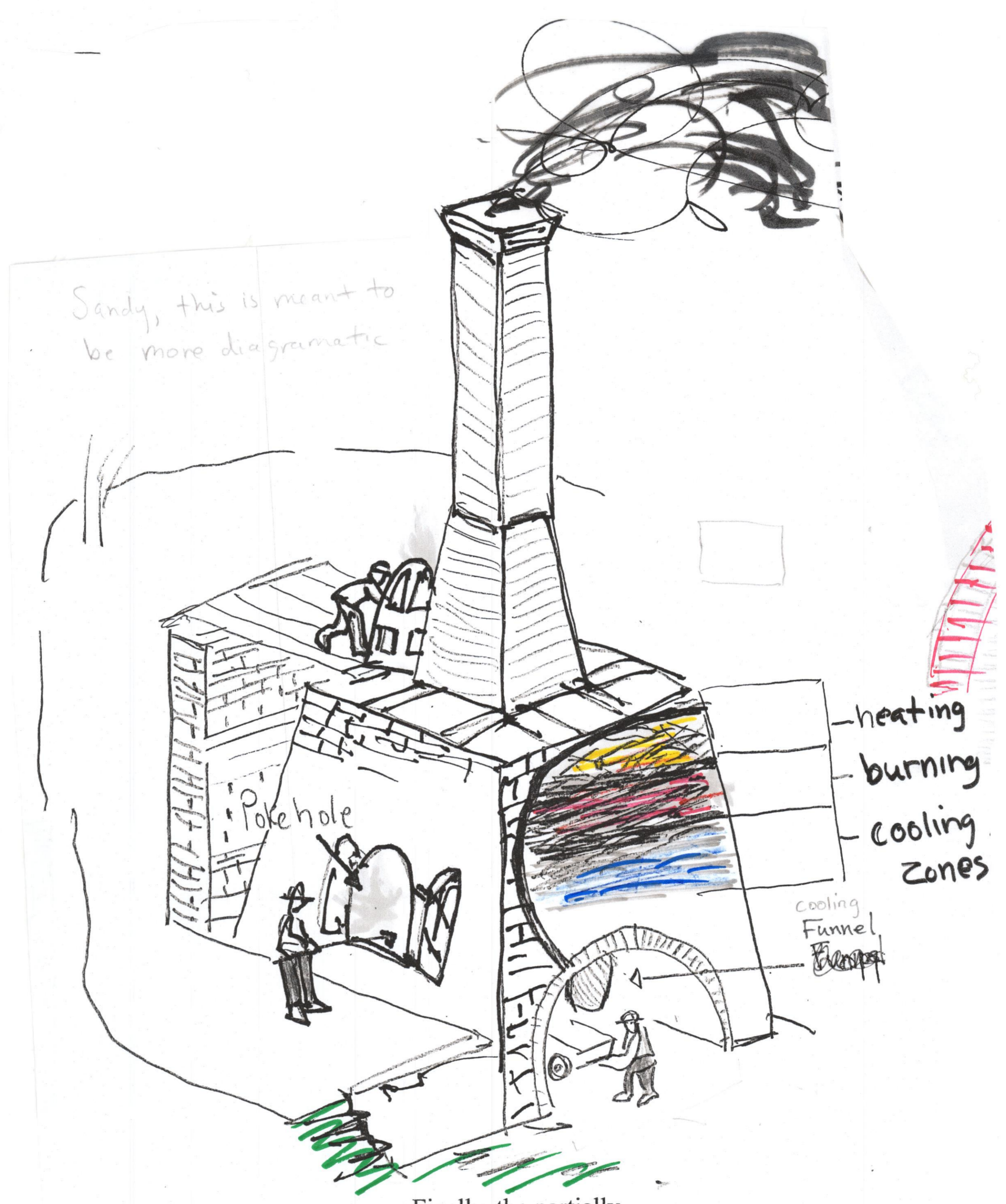


As this initial loading burned down, subsequent alternate layers of marble and wood were added. This mixture was heated to 900 - 1000 degrees Celsius (1800 +/- degrees F.) as the marble and fuel moved down to the burning zone. At this stage, half way down the

kiln, poke holes were needed in order to check the progress of the lime burning and to keep the mixture moving through the baking cycle and down to the cooling zone.

Constant kiln use required outside buttresses to protect the kiln structures from the outward pressure of heat and expanding stones. These log buttresses were held tight against the kilns by tie-rods installed when the kiln was built.

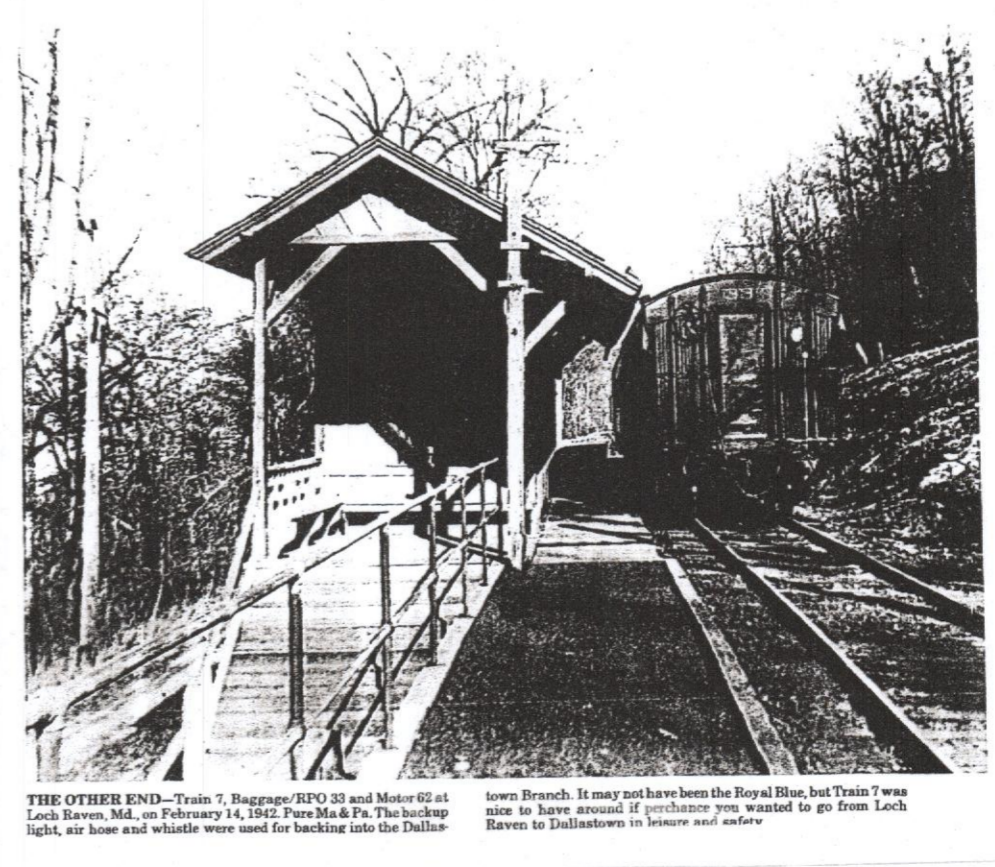
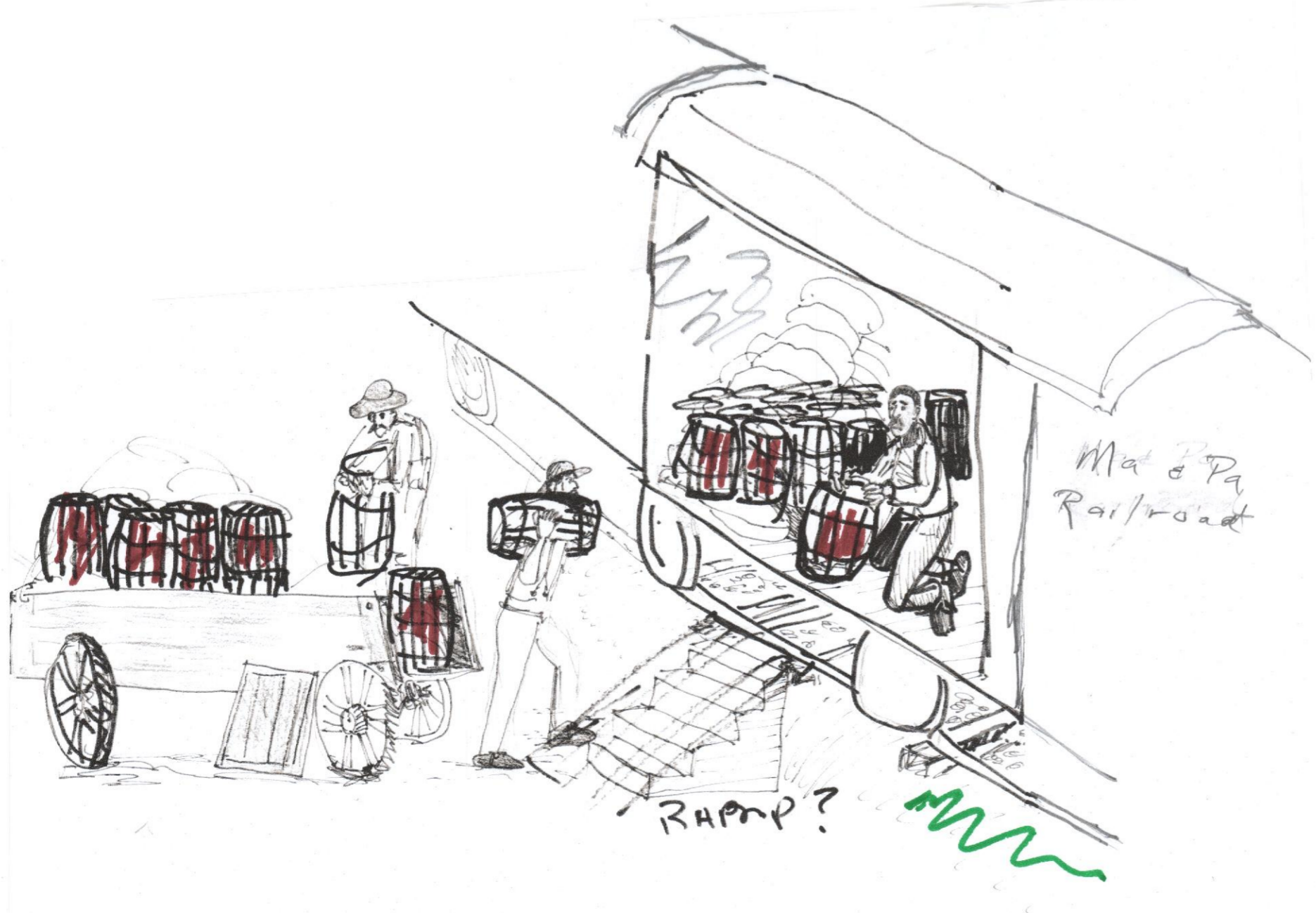
A ten to fifteen foot high chimney on top of the kiln aided in the upward movement of heat to bake the marble and also helped remove the poisonous carbon dioxide saturated smoke from the work area.



Finally, the partially cooled lime moved into the cooling "funnel" where it was eventually unloaded and packed into barrels for shipment.

Where was Cromwell Valley's Lime sent?

This lime was hauled to local farmers and to the nearby "Ma & Pa" railroad. From there it was transported to Pennsylvania as well as to the port of Baltimore for shipment up and down the Middle Atlantic States.



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