

Reprs. Secure Pay-Hour Change

Have Busy Session At January Meeting

The presentment and approval of a motion to change the pay hours of the company was one of the features of the January meeting of the plant representatives.

As a result of this action starting today, Lukens employees will be paid off starting at 2 o'clock instead of 2:30, a move which will prove of considerable convenience to all workmen. In this manner it will enable most of the men to get their checks cashed at the local banks before they close at 3 o'clock.

An official "Happy New Year" resolution, extending greetings to all of their fellow workmen, was also passed by the representatives. This body is grateful for the interest manifested in their activities by the workmen and will do their best to serve during 1935.

Representative Quarry expressed thanks to company officials for the work done in putting the washroom at the 84-inch mill in first class condition.

It was also announced at the session that the company will give appropriate Bowling prizes to the participants in the Lukens Duckpin Bowling League, now underway at the Y. M. C. A. alleys. Other matters of interest were discussed.

The representative body attended the Monday evening dinner meeting of the foreman of Lukens Steel Company, in acceptance of an invitation extended them at their meeting.

Chairman Joseph Lovell was absent from the session due to an attack of grippe.

Chapman Speaks

"Steel Versus Cast Iron in Machine Structures" was the topic of an interesting address given by Everett Chapman, vice president of Lukenweld, at the recent meeting of the American Society of Engineers held in New York City.

Chapman recently returned from Europe where he made a close study of the latest welding and steel making practices. He gleaned much valuable information while on this trip abroad.

PLANT REPRESENTATIVES, 1934-35



Top Row, left to right: Irwin Simmers, Dewey Diehm, Chester Barnes, Cyrus McCorkle, John Reach, Ezra Dripps, James Quarry, John Howard, Samuel Nunemaker, Pierce Patton.

Bottom Row, left to right: Dallas Williams, Joseph G. Maxwell, Edward H. Irwin, Joseph Lovell, George K. Irwin, John Price, Ralph Harrison, Charles Dunlap.

This Issue Marks "Plate's" Birthday

With this edition, the first for 1934, the Lukens Plate enters its second year of existence. Activities of the paper for the first year recall varying memories to the minds of those instrumental in its publication. The Plate has tried dilligently to cater to the paramount desires of the workmen and to keep them informed at all times of the developments about them. The operations of Lukens Steel Company both at home and afar have been described in these columns to the best of the ability of the editor and assistants. It is the fond hope of this publication that continued cooperation will follow during 1935 and that the return to normalcy of the steel industry will be one of the major topics of the 1935 Plate.

Six Were Pensioned During Past Year

Lukens Steel Company added six names to the "honor roll or pension list during the year 1934, a persual of the records revealed recently.

Those faithful employees who were placed on the pension list included: Edward Gilbert, Frank Sharp, James Thompson, Jerry McCord, Preston Jones and Thomas Dutton. The pension list now number twenty-eight. Five pensioners died during the year.

Huge Press Brake Is Installed Here

By-Products Gets New Equipment

Constructed to handle steel plates up to either 1 inch in thickness and 12 feet in length or $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thickness and 18 feet in length, the largest press brake ever built for bending, flanging, forming and multiple punching has been installed at the By-Products, division of Lukens Steel Company.

This press brake is of steel construction throughout, using heavy steel plates of analyses especially adapted to flame-cutting and welding which were supplied by Lukens Steel Company. The housing, flame-cut from two steel plates 8 inches in thickness, 87 inches in width, and 13 feet 8 inches in length, weighing 33,000 pounds each.

The bed and ram were flame-cut from two steel plates 7 inches in thickness, 72 inches in width, 18 feet in length and weighing 31,000 pounds each. The main drive gears are of welded steel construction, with high carbon steel providing the requisite tooth strength and wear resistance in the gear rims. The gear guards, which also act as outer auxiliary bearings, are of welded steel construction.

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Lukens Plate

Published by and for the Employees of Lukens Steel Company Every Fourth Week

Editor, Edward Lake

Lukens Steel Co. "Then And Now"

Third Of The Articles Being Published

The partnership was "just kept alive" throughout the entire period of the Civil War, but all the while Dr. Huston was studying metallurgy and making improvements in the mill. He installed a new breast wheel, geared so as to convey more power to the rolls, and in addition he introduced a great, heavy fly-wheel geared to a high speed to store power and to keep the tremors of the water wheel from instantly being reflected in the movement of the rolls. The shears, both trimming and scrap cutting, were then operated from one end of the shaft which carried the large fly wheel. Before that they had been operated directly from the end of the roll train. This allowed him to go up to rolls 21 inches in diameter and 66 inches long and proved most timely as the demand then was for a wider and longer plate.

Following a short breathing spell after the Civil War the country entered a boom and the mill could not keep up with orders and also was unable to roll many of the plate sizes which were in demand. This latter condition prompted a resolution on the part of the mill owners that henceforth the mill should be ahead of the times and never behind them.

Consequently in 1870 the old mill practice was abandoned altogether and a modern steam driven mill was constructed. This consisted of a two-high plate mill with chilled rolls 25 inches in diameter and 84 inches long. The old mill was changed over to a puddling mill by introducing grooved rolls to roll covers 14 inches and 21 inches and bars 7 inches wide. At the same time a triphammer was introduced to hammer out the puddled balls into blooms and billets, to be rolled out in the grooved rolls as stock for re-working into plates in the new plate mill.

These improvements placed the equipment of the mill ahead of any other in the country and business boomed. Then, almost without warning, the panic of 1873 broke. Dr. Hus-

ton took it as his obligation to keep the mill going at least part of the time, and to rotate the men so that every regular employee should have at least a living income, either from mill work or the farm work, which was conducted largely by the employees.

A. F. Huston finished his course at Haverford College in the summer of 1872 and at once came into the mills, weighing and making the plate product for shipment, and keeping the record of the production. During the height of the panic material was made for stock in New York, New Orleans and Boston, in order to keep the men employed. Charles L. Huston graduated from Haverford College in 1875 and, after taking a business course at the Crittenden Business College, Philadelphia, and, later, a course in analytical chemistry in Philadelphia, entered the business, beginning in the office. The mill continued running all this time, although not in full force. Orders were being picked up here and there at prices just about to cover cost, in order to keep going.

A. F. Huston was taken into the firm in 1876, the partnership then being changed from Huston and Penrose to Huston and Penrose and Company. Charles L. Huston came into the partnership in 1879, the firm name remaining the same, and consisting of Dr. Huston, Charles Penrose, A. F. Huston and Charles L. Huston.

In 1873, and after the old iron works store was closed, Dr. Huston conceived the idea that it would be helpful to the men if they should organize a mutual beneficial association, so, after studying up the subject the Wawasset Beneficial Society was formed, and has grown from time to time until of recent years it includes every employee of the mill, the men having themselves made the request that membership in this Society be made a condition of employment.

Mention should be made of the fact that Joseph Humpton came into the business as a clerk and bookkeeper in 1863, becoming in 1890 Treasurer of the company and continued on until his death in 1925.

A little while after the younger men had come into the partnership, the long depression, following the Civil War and the failure of Jay Cooke & Co., business volume gradually increased until in August 1878 prices began to rise and business rapidly improved. The wisdom of the owners in keeping the mill operating, even at little or no profit, and keeping everything in good repair, was borne out, and, in the meantime, a chance came to get a large order at a very low price, which would require the workmen to fill it at a

special reduction in wage rates, in order to get the work, and meet the reduced cost while the mill was running.

The men were called together and the entire details of the order explained. After being told that all other costs had been cut to the bone and that the wage rate was the only item remaining, the men responded by agreeing to fill the order at a slightly lower wage scale.

It was during the time of the depression from 1873 to 1878 that the U. S. Government, noticing that so many boiler explosions occurred, principally on the great rivers of the country, decided to install a steamboat inspection service and to require plates to meet certain tensile strength, in order to increase the safety of the boilers. Prior to that time, Mississippi River steamboats were racing each other and one of the deck would be instructed to "hold down the safety valve", to get up steam pressure to beat the other boat. Bang would go the boiler and a lot of loss of life and property would follow.

To meet this situation, the Government decided to install steamboat inspection service, and to make certain requirements in the material and construction of boilers. Dr. Charles Huston immediately said that this would make a premium on hard brittle iron, in order to get high tensile strength, which would be dangerous, so he purchased a testing machine from Fairbanks & Co., and began making tests of the iron to see what specifications should be, and recommended that a ductility requirement be introduced to guard against brittleness and treacherous quality, recommending to the new Government department that such a requirement should be added. This resulted in an invitation being extended to the boiler plate makers of the country to come to Washington in 1877 and meet with the officials in the Treasury Department.

(To be continued)

Huge Press Brake Is Installed Here

(Continued from first page)

tion. The total weight of the machine complete is approximately 145,000 pounds.

This world's largest press brake is a most important addition to the equipment at the By-Products plant and will enable that division to serve more efficiently their many customers.

Accepted suggestions will net you cash. Send them in.

Nickel-Clad Used In Big Kettle

Using Lukens' Nickel-Clad Steel throughout, one of the largest soap boiling kettles which has yet been constructed, was recently completed for a Pacific Coast soap manufacturer.

The kettle, built in conical form, is 15 feet in diameter and 29 feet in height. Plates used in the kettle were $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch 5-16 of an inch and 3-16 of an inch thick. These were clad with pure, solid nickel on one side to the extent of 10 per cent of the total plate thickness, with black oxide finish on the nickel surface. The heating coils and discharge spout are pure, solid nickel plating.

In the processing of soaps in this kettle, the fluid mixture will come in contact only with the pure nickel surface of nickel-clad steel or piping. This pure nickel surface is immune to rust frequently met in ordinary steel kettles.

Plant Foremen Hold Session

"Steel Selling Problems under the Code" as discussed by R. W. Wolcott, company president, was the feature of the second foreman's meeting, sponsored by the company, held on Monday evening at the Y. M. C. A.

Superintendents and foremen of the various departments were in attendance at the dinner-session, the second in a series of four such gatherings.

Feats of black magic by William Wagner, Carlisle, Pa., magician, furnished fine entertainment for the group. Louis B. Jervis led the group singing.

Ex-Governor To Address Foremen

Returning again this year by popular demand, Ex-Governor William Sweet, of Colorado, will address the January 28th meeting of the Coatesville Foremen's Club at the Y.M.C.A.

Sweet is also a member of the board of publicity of the NRA and is expected to give the latest slants from Washington regarding the activities of this unit. An interesting supporting program is being arranged by Membership Secretary Cecil Lovejoy.

IN MEMORIAM

FRANK GATES

A prolonged illness terminated on December 20th in the death of Frank Gates, Lukens employee since 1918. Gates' last affiliation with Lukens was that of a watchman. During the majority of his time here he was employed in the 112-inch mill.

CHARLES SWOYER

Severe injuries received when he fell into a scale pit at the 140-inch mill resulted in the death of Charles Swoyer, hookman at that mill. Swoyer's unfortunate death was the first fatality in Lukens since 1931. He had been with this company since 1912, all of that time in the 140-inch mill.

PHILLIPS—TRAINER

The death of an infant was reported by Mr. and Mrs. LaForest Phillips. Mr. and Mrs. James Trainer are also grieving the loss of a child. Both of the husbands are Lukens employees.

MRS. WARREN COATES

Mrs. Warren Coates, wife of Warren Coates of the traffic department at the Main Office, passed away recently.

Life's Greatest Joy

Have you ever helped another?
Ever earned a grateful smile?
Ever asked a weary brother
In to ride with you a mile?
Have you ever given freely
Of your riches and your
worth?
If you haven't, then you've
really
Missed the greatest joy on
earth.

Has a thrill of pride possessed
you?
Have you felt your pulses run
As a weaker brother blessed you
For some good that you have
done.
Have you seen eyes start to
glisten
That were sad before you
came,
If you haven't stop and listen,
You have missed life's finest
game.

Safety First—a good slogan
at all times.

Accepted suggestions will net
you cash. Send them in.

Tom Watson Is Promoted

Thomas T. Watson, who joined the Metallurgical Department here in August, 1931, has been appointed development and service metallurgist. He will be engaged principally in service and sales work in connection with Lukens Nickel-Clad Steel.

Watson was born in Scotland thirty-five years ago and graduated in 1923 from the Royal Technical College in Glasgow with the degree of Associate of the R. T. C. Until 1925 he was assistant metallurgist at David Colville & Sons, the largest iron and steel manufacturer in Scotland.

He then became metallurgist at the Clyde Alloy Steel Company, serving there for two years. From 1927 to 1930 he was assistant metallurgist at Dorman Long & Company, one of the largest iron and steel manufacturers in England. He came to this country in 1930 and engaged as a consulting metallurgist in New York until he joined the Lukens organization in 1931.

Study Course Is Open To Men

Lukens workmen are cordially invited to participate in the physical and academic classes being held twice a week at the Lukens Mission building on the west side of the plant, as a part of a community center project in West Coatesville.

Both the physical and study courses are highly recommended and have proved to be of great value. Men who wish to enter these courses can communicate either with their foreman or with the faculty staff at the mission. Virgil Sasso, William Donnelly and John Stott, well known local instructors, are in charge of the classes.

Wiese On Coast

Members of the California Certified Boiler and Elevator Inspectors Association, at their January meeting at Hotel St. Francis, San Francisco, heard the advantage of "Luken Cromsil Steel" expounded by J. F. Wiese, assistant to vice-president in charge of sales.

Wiese made the trip to the Coast especially for the convention and reports have it that he put the local product across to the delegates in a most emphatic manner.

Wawasset Society Elects Officers

Paid Fifty-one Claims During 1934

The annual election meeting of the Wawasset Society of Lukens Steel Company was held over the general store room on January 5th with J. Pierce Zook again being chosen for the presidency of the group.

This same honor has been conferred upon Zook for more than 20 years, a remarkable reflection of the esteem in which he is held by fellow-workers.

Other officers chosen included: Frank Russell, vice-president; and George K. Irwin, secretary. Election of directors for 1935 saw the following men selected: J. H. McElhinney, C. Arthur Mallalieu, Ralph Waldron, J. P. Zook, John Gable, Frank Russell, Harry Mock, Chester Barnes, Richard Copeland, Samuel Forbes, Walter Thompson and George K. Irwin.

A committee comprising Alfred Mowday, Robert Proudman, and Norman Franciscus, was also appointed to officially audit the books. Another committee of J. H. McElhinney, George K. Irwin and Richard Copeland was named to take care of any investments during 1935.

Reports submitted at the annual session showed that the Wawasset was in a sound financial condition at the conclusion of 1934. Fifty-one claims were paid during the year including 19 members, 11 wives, 18 children, 2 mothers, and 1 husband.

A detailed financial statement of the Wawasset Society will be issued in the near future and will be posted in all parts of the plant.

Smith Works On 1,000 M. P. H. Basis

Plans of coast-to-coast passenger service in three hours are visualized by M. DeMerritt Smith By-Products employee, who is now busily engaged working on the details of an invention to perfect this service.

Considerable mystery surrounds Smith's theory, other than it would be some sort of a machine propelled through a giant tube. Smith is looking around for an electrical wizard who will help him out on certain details.

The one flaw in the 1,000 mile an hour program is that traffic via the new method would cost five or ten times as much as the present fare.

Here And There

Apparently it was "June in January" for a number of Lukens employees who recently arrived at the all-important decision, as reflected by the myraid of engagements which were announced.

Among those who expect to go overboard are the following well-known personages:

Ralph Bussinger, order department, and Marion Emery.

Marie Emery, (sister to above), and Anthony Zappacosta.

Regina Klunk and Donald Hoffman. Evelyn Hughes, Lukenweld division, and Gilbert Miller, trucking department.

While out at the By-Products, Harry Galloway did an about face and marched to the altar with Patricia Russell.

Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Stewart recently moved into their new living quarters at South Hill. Mr. Stewart is employed in the traffic department.

John McIntyre has returned to the fold and is again back at his position in the comptroller's office. For several months he was connected with the local silk mill.

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Walters and Mr. and Mrs. Julius Becker recently received congratulations upon the arrival of newcomers. They were both boys.

E. J. Charlton, Lukenweld's Railway Engineer specialist, recently returned from a trip to Bermuda. A honeymoon is reported in the offing for this chap.

Harry Cole, steel inspector here, is recovering from a recent operation at the Coatesville Hospital. Harry had a broken bone in his foot which was removed.

Thomas Boyer, electrician, recently sustained minor injuries when an automobile which he was driving overturned. "Tom" was lucky to come out of the accident only slightly injured but his car was damaged to the extent of \$100.

Ralph Bernard of the filing department recently underwent an operation for appendicitis at the Coatesville Hospital. He is recovering nicely.

Clarence Wallace, Lukens watchman, is recovering from the effects of an operation December 17th at the Coatesville Hospital.

"Practice Safety" Is Good Motto

With the advent of the new year, while all sorts of resolutions are in order, it is sincerely hoped that the employees of Lukens Steel will join in the movement and resolve to make the safety record for 1935 the best ever.

Since safety is primarily a matter depending upon the individual, a resolution along these lines would no doubt work wonders. If each employee would practice safety during his working day there would be little or no chance for accidents to occur.

Don't forget, however, that carelessness on the part of ONE person can spoil the record of a hundred safe workers. Safety is a matter depending strictly upon the individual.

SPORTS

The highly touted employees' representative basketball team has thrice tasted of the bitter cup of defeat since the last edition of the Plate, but on last reports still had a chance to cop the first half of the Community League.

The Lukens boys, minus the services of star players on each occasion, dropped two heart-breakers in the league recently to the New Idea Laundry and the Y.M.C.A. One game was 31-29 and the other 27-26.

In outside contests, the Lukenites dropped a game at home to Birdsboro and then went to that place and trounced the same team in a garrison finish.

Railroads Keynote Says Lukens Pres.

Writing for the two page Lukens ad in the annual issue of the Railway Age, which came out last month, Robert W. Wolcott, president of Lukens Steel Company, pointed out several interesting facts regarding the railroads of the country.

After reviewing the recent condition of the railroads, ordinarily the largest single market for the products of the steel industry, Wolcott expressed the belief that the roads now need much new equipment.

"But to enable the railways to buy, railway earning must be restored. Proper legislation will do it," he said. "As go the railroads, so goes the steel industry, the entire durable goods industries, and the prosperity of the nation."