

1810-1934

# Lukens Plate

World's Largest  
Plate Mill

VOL. 1

COATESVILLE, PA., DECEMBER 21, 1934

NO. 14

## Many Men Are Now On Sick List

### Illness and Accidents Are Responsible

It is with a real note of sympathy and regret that the Lukens Plate publishes herewith a list of unfortunate employees who are absent from work due to illness or injuries received in accidents.

The most heartfelt wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, coupled with a wish for speedy recovery, is extended to these individuals. Both employees and officials of the company join in greeting.

The sick list is as follows: Robert Warner and Harry Frame, Open Hearth; Pete Modre, track; Harry Greenfield, John Newlin, and Nicholas Aceto, 140" mill; Walter Francis, steam; G. Frank Sharp, Universal; James Mendenhall, pipe; Kirkwood Wallace, acetylene; Frank Ostroska, punch; Alvin Groff, locomotive; Frank Gates, police; Lloyd Allen, garage; Winfield Hames and Raymond Chestnut, masonry; Harry Matson, By-Product; W. J. McMasters, sales; Eleanor Sydenstricker, telephone; Harlan Detteline, Harold Wolfe, Isaac Thompson, and John Humpton; Frank Bates, flanging; Henry Scott, By-Product;

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The four Byerleys and George Hicks went deer hunting recently and two of them returned home with a bad cold. Outside of that they got nothing.

Merry Xmas—Happy New Year.

Merry Christmas, Happy  
New Year!

### Largest Copper Plate Made Here

Lukens Steel Company, through the medium of the 206" mill, recently set up another record for the rolling of wide plates when the three largest copper plates in the world were turned out.

The largest of these plates had a diameter of 192", was  $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick and was rolled 200" wide. Another was 192" diameter, 7-16" thick and 200" wide and the third was 188" in diameter, 5-8" thick, and 195" wide.

### 50th Wedding Anniversary

A half-century of wedded bliss became a reality for Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Mullen, this city, recently when they observed their fiftieth wedding anniversary amidst a crowd of admiring relatives and friends. The Plate adds its congratulations to those already tendered. "Sam" has been a member of the Lukens police force for the past seventeen years.

John Davis, colored, of the track department, has survived a year's serious illness, including several operations, and recently returned to his regular job. Davis was critically injured last October when thrown from a car on which he was riding. His many friends rejoice at his marvelous recovery.

Practice Safety Every Day.

## Busy Sessions For Plant Repr.

### Many Problems Dis- cussed Recently

Decision to amend the by-laws governing their own activities; plans for a new locker room for workers at the 84" mill; inauguration of a boosting campaign for the employee's basketball team; and adjustment of a request forwarded by cranerunners, were the main features of the most recent meeting of the Plant Representatives.

Regarding the amendment to the by-laws, the following two articles were agreed upon as additions:

#### ARTICLE XVI Amendments

This representation plan may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the entire membership of the Joint Committee on Rules or by concurrent majority vote of the Employees' Representatives and the Representatives of the Management at an Annual Conference. Before any committee can amend the By-Laws, they shall be referred to the entire joint committee, and shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of this committee.

#### ARTICLE XIII Section 3

If the General Joint Committee on appeals shall fail to effect a settlement, the President of the Company shall be called into consultation and the matter thoroughly gone into, if no settlement is reached, the matter shall be referred to the Regional Labor Board.

The locker room problem at the 84" mill was again brought up by Representative Quarry and received favorable action. The old brick layers locker and wash room at the front of the mill office, formerly used as headquarters for laborers, will be remodeled. The partition di-

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## Lukens Plate

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

Editor, Edward Lake

### Basketball Squad Looks Powerful

Wins the Opening Game Easily, 34-18

Resting comfortably atop the Community League as a result of their easy, 34-18, opening game victory over the Y. M. C. A., the employees basketball team of the Lukens Steel Company is awaiting with great interest the clash next Wednesday with their arch-rivals, the New Idea Laundry Five.

Although their teamwork revealed plenty of room for improvement, the Lukens team showed great potential power in their victory over the Y. M. C. A. The team is composed of practically all six-footers and showed remarkable ability at snaring the ball on the rebound from the backboard.

The Community League has been reduced from four to three teams this year, the members at present being, Lukens, New Idea Laundry, and the Y. M. C. A.

As a result only one league game will be played every Wednesday night, with the third team in the league playing a contest at the same time against an outside quintet.

The Lukens lineup includes the names of George Long, "Wally" Deering, "Charley" Deering, "Johnny" Martin, "Cy" Lynch, George Cross, "Dick" Slider, "Stan" Oleseski, "Bill" Wolfe, and "Ray" Pyle.

What with "Cy" Lynch, and "Johnny" Martin, ex-Parkesburg High aces, and "Bill" Cross, former star guard at Coatesville High, added to the roster, the Steelmen appear to be going places. On paper the team looms up as forty per cent. stronger than last year.

Coach "Perk" Richards has been working with the courtmen in an attempt to perfect their team work and holds high hopes for the season.

Merry Xmas—Happy New Year.

## Busy Sessions For Plant Reprs.

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viding this place will be torn down, thus giving more room, and lockers will be installed. Wash basins and toilet facilities are already provided.

Sale of many season tickets and an earnest plea for support for the team were mentioned in connection with basketball activities. This year's squad appears to be one of the best amateur teams in the history of the city.

The crane runners, through their representative, Joseph Lovell, presented a petition asking that they again be placed in their former standing and supervision, for the purpose of more unified operation.

Following a thorough investigation this matter has been adjusted to the satisfaction of all parties concerned.

The 1934-35 group of representatives has been exceedingly busy since they took office recently, having held no less than eight meetings during this time, six of them special sessions. These men are showing a keen interest as representatives.

## CHATTERBOX

"Lish" McGuigan missed a couple of turns recently looking for his coon dog \*\*\* the hound has some bird dog mixed in and when he finds a coon he points instead of barking \*\*\* Moyer, Simmers, and Co. were listed among the Lukens deer hunters but spent all their time arguing who was to be captain \*\*\* in a mixup after the hunters had been posted, the captain drove the deer the other way \*\*\* "Jack" Gable has a cute photograph of his newest bloodhounds \*\*\* we suggest making "Jack" a Kentucky colonel as a result of the thoroughbreds \*\*\* the electric shops boasts one Houdini who keeps his cigarettes in his stockings \*\*\* and smokes them in secret \*\*\* just pals, Greist and Deering \*\*\* moral, everyone is on the same level \*\*\* Emory Bachman recently broke a record of (?) duration when he visited New York City for the first time in his life \*\*\* he had a stiff neck for two days following \*\*\* Joseph Skeyhill at the

Mill Office is rumored to be changing his clothes at noon every day \*\*\* and wearing a wistful smile on his face \*\*\* and "Bob" Copeland of the same department \*\*\* avers he's the answers to a maiden's prayer \*\*\* "Mike" Mundy can't put up stovepipe \*\*\* get's the jitters \*\*\* 'tis said that "Max" Steinwachs and Jones Rubincam were always last out at the cigar factory inspection \*\*\* we wonder just what was the attraction or attractions \*\*\* Harvey Gregg settles all crossword puzzle disputes \*\*\* in barber shops \*\*\* Fed according to a sawdust diet, Frank McCrearey's latest crop of ducks included four with wooden legs and one woodpecker \*\*\* not bad for a starter, eh \*\*\* "Ed" Barnes was looking for the police recently because he thought his car had been tagged \*\*\* and why that gun permit, "Ed" \*\*\* picture Norman Franciscus getting up at 5 o'clock in the morning to listen to the wedding of Prince George and Princess Marina \*\*\* that's just what he did \*\*\* Clarence Johnson is still getting up his nerve \*\*\* and "Howdy" Griffith is beginning to think seriously \*\*\* orchids to "Joe" Lovell, chairman of the plant representatives \*\*\* he's giving his very best \*\*\* with Phoenixville and Alabama under our belts we hope to continue the winning streak by picking Alabama and Temple for the Rose and Sugar bowl tilts \*\*\*

### Prospects Good At Lukenweld

After a period of inactivity, prospects for Lukenweld, Inc., a subsidiary of Lukens Steel, are again looking up in a most favorable manner.

The reason for the upturn can be traced directly to orders received from the General Electric Company and the Winton Engine Corporation.

Many gear cases and gears will be constructed for the General Electric while a total of twenty-four engine beds will be made up for Winton. These engines will be for commercial use.

Donald Spackman, president of Lukenweld, expressed an optimistic view when questioned and declared that more orders are looked for within very near future.

Suggestions Net You Cash.

## Lukens Steel Co. "Then And Now"

### Second Of The Articles Being Published

Dr. Lukens rebuilt the dam, got the mill in shape again, and sometime between 1822 and 1825 felt himself sufficiently equipped to roll charcoal-iron boiler plates, the first such plates ever rolled in America. Many of these plates went into boilers on steamboats plying the Mississippi River.

Dr. Lukens had made heavy investments in improving the mill and in hiring more men to run the enlarged plant and before he could get the mill into profitable operation he took suddenly ill and died, leaving a practically bankrupt estate with no one to carry on but a widow, a woman only 31 years old, who had been reared for anything but business, being a specialist in chemistry and French.

But Mrs. Lukens proved to be more than equal to the occasion. Stepping into one of the most difficult assignments ever handed any business person, the 31-year-old mother of four living children immediately took over the management of the company, appointed Solomon Lukens, a brother of Dr. Lukens, as mill foreman, and plunged into the intricacies of the iron industry with remarkable courage.

That she had more than courage, however, was soon proven by the shrewd manner in which she handled the business reins. "Making the price" was then a matter which came up at every transaction, there were no "market quotations," and each transaction was as individual as a horse trade and about as long. In this sort of a business deal, which required remarkable foresight, Mrs. Lukens was at her best.

The fact that she did what was considered the "impossible" and brought the mill "out of the red" is borne out by figures which showed that nine years after Dr. Lukens' death, she had paid off all of his debts, paid the balance due to the Pennock estate on the mill and farm, and practically rebuilt the old mill from its very foundations. She wrote at this time: "Not a vestige of the old remained. I have

thoroughly repaired the mansion house, built good and substantial tenant houses for my workmen, put much lime and fencing on the farm, and have been at the whole expense of defending the property from an attempt made to destroy the water right. I had built a very superior mill, though a plain one, and our character for making boiler iron stood first in the market, hence we had as much business as we could do."

Solomon Lukens, first superintendent of the mill under the supervision of Mrs. Lukens, was succeeded by Joseph Bailey (who became partner in the business) and later purchased an iron works of his own near Pottstown. He was replaced in 1843 by Abraham Gibbons. Gibbons proved an able supervisor and upon his retirement was succeeded in 1855, by Dr. Charles Huston, who six years previous had married Isabella, the second daughter of Mrs. Lukens, having entered the business in 1849.

The modern business dates from Dr. Huston, for in addition to his business sense he brought a keen, searching, scientific spirit. Dr. Huston graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1840, spent three years in the study of medicine at Jefferson and for a year and a half studied at Heidelberg and Paris. Then he returned to Philadelphia and went into practice and was in a fair way to becoming a leading physician when his health failed him, following his marriage, and it became absolutely necessary for him to live in the country.

Dr. Huston had no training in business whatever, but somehow he had the business instinct, and when he observed that the Pennsylvania Railroad had been built through Coatesville, he saw a chance for real progress. He formed a partnership with George W. P. Coates, the wife's first cousin, in 1849, and they evidently made money, for nine years later, Dr. Huston sold his share of the enterprise to Coates for \$8,000.

In 1855, Dr. Huston secured full control of the mill and promptly ran into the panic of the same year which closed the country up as tight as a drum for half a year. But by this time the finances of the mill were in fair shape and shutting down did not mean what it does today, for interest on the investment did not much have to be

reckoned with.

In 1859, Charles Penrose, another relative, entered the firm. Hardly had the new partnership got underway when the Civil War broke out and all but stopped business. Gradually nearly all the able-bodied men joined the armed forces. The mill did no war work.

Its owners were then and always had been members of the Society of Friends, that is Quakers and therefore pacifists. The rule was that none of the mill's product could be used for war purposes. The rule was absolute and the proprietors had to know the ultimate destination of every bit of iron the mill sold.

This same rule was followed in the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War, the Spanish War and during that period of the World War up until 1917 when the United States entered. Then, believing that this war was more than a war, the company, after lengthy deliberation, went into government war work in defense of the country.

(To Be Continued)

## Safety Record Is Not Impressive

With new chairmen named in every division, the 1934-35 safety drive of the Lukens Steel Company got off to anything but a flying start when some mediocre records were turned in for the first period which showed Miscellaneous Shops heading the list with 89%, closely followed by the Open Hearth with 87.6%.

A comparison with the first period records last year show that Miscellaneous Shops also headed the list at that time but further perusal reveals eight lost time accidents this year against four lost time mishaps in 1933-34.

The Plate Mills had a mark of 84.1%; Mechanical Shops turned in 73.9%, and Miscellaneous Departments finished last with 66%.

The new safety chairmen include: R. Busch, Open Hearth; S. Espenshade, Plate Mills; E. Peckett, Miscellaneous Shops; I. Brown, Mechanical Shops; and W. Watterson, Miscellaneous Departments.

Suggestions Net You Cash.

Practice Safety Every Day.

## Plant Foremen Are Very Active

### Hold Meetings; Visit Phila., Harrisburg

The first of a series of meetings for foremen, sponsored by Lukens Steel Company, was given at the Y. M. C. A. on December 10th and proved to be a most interesting occasion.

Upwards of 180 foremen, representing every department, were on hand for the dinner meeting and heard a remarkable talk on "Personnel Problems of Today," given by C. J. Hicks, of New York City, who is a prominent authority on industrial problems.

Short remarks were made by President R. W. Wolcott and General Superintendent J. H. McElhinney. The entertainment feature of the evening was a song program by the famous Keystone Quartet of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Several additional meetings in this series are to be held during the next few months and are now being awaited with much interest following the success of the opening affair.

The committee in charge of arranging the sessions includes, George K. Irwin, Herman J. Hofmann, and Roland J. Edgar.

Twenty-six Lukens employees were included in the group of members of the Foremen's Club of Coatesville and vicinity who recently paid a visit to the Bayuk Cigar Company at 11th and Columbia Avenue in Philadelphia.

As guests of the cigar company management, the locals reported one of the finest visitation programs ever arranged.

The first thing the foremen received upon the arrival at the plant was a delicious steak and mushroom dinner served in the banquet room. After this tasty menu they were then shown through the entire plant.

The Bayuk Company lists 4,000 employees on its payroll and operates twenty-four hours a day. The foremen were shown the entire process of cigar manufacturing, from the bottom to the top floor, and registered no small amazement at the details which go into the making of a good "smoke."

Those who went from Lukens included: Roland Edgar, Waren Wilkinson, John Maitland, Stan-

ley Oleseski, Louis Bunting, Harold Bunting, Norman Brown, Samuel Espenshade, Jones Rubincam, Paul Lake, Thomas McClintock, George Irwin, Max Steinwachs, Norman Francisus, Joel Baker, Enos Baker, Robert Downing, Lewis Glauner, William McAlpine, Roy Willard, Ira Brown, Harry Mock, Leon Quaintance, William Jasinisky, Paul Watkins, and Harmon Mock.

## IN MEMORIAM

### ARMET McCARRAHER

An employee of Lukens Steel Company since 1894, Armet McCarraher, known to his many friends as "Barney," passed away on December 8th. McCarraher had been listed among the company's pensioners since his retirement in 1926. For many years he worked at various jobs in the 84" mill. He was 78 years old.

### WILMER FORBES

Following a short illness, death claimed Wilmer Forbes, a member of the police department, on October 25th. He was 66 years old and had been with Lukens continuously, with the exception of several years, since 1889.

Forbes was a pit foreman in the Open Hearth Department until 1933 at which time he was transferred to the police department.

### Company Nurse Now Recuperating

It is with real sympathy that we note the plight of Miss Grace Griggs, company nurse, who is now confined to her home in the Breuninger Apartments recuperating from a foot operation performed at the Coatesville Hospital recently.

Miss Griggs is noted for the tender manner in which she handles the Lukens sick and injured and her misfortune has brought comment from scores of friends, all of whom join in wishing her a speedy recovery.

Meanwhile, Miss Margaret Gee, graduate nurse of the Coatesville Hospital, has filled the place left vacant by Miss Griggs in a most commendable manner and has proven a distinct success as a pinch-hitter.

Merry Xmas—Happy New Year.

## Sugg. Awards Are Announced

### Many Share Distribution

An abundance of real substantial Christmas cheer in the form of dollars and cents will soon go to a select group of Lukens workers as a result of their accepted suggestions, announced recently following a meeting of the Suggestion Committee, headed by Lester Curtis.

Benjamin Morrell of the flanging department, with three accepted suggestions, topped the list of money winners. One of his suggestions was worth \$8, another \$12.50 and still another, \$6, for a total of \$26.50.

Paul March had two suggestions to his credit, one for \$3 and one for \$5, while A. E. Deering netted \$5.50 for two suggestions of merit. Other winners included: C. R. Sheaffer, \$2; Joe Hopson, \$2; Wilmer S. Montgomery, \$5; Ralph S. Pyle, \$10; David Elmer, \$5; and Harry C. Anway, \$15.

Four employees were also named as being eligible for bonus awards on accepted suggestions.

These men, who have had five accepted suggestions during recent months, received a 20% bonus on the total worth of their suggestions.

The winners and the amounts were: David Elmer, \$11.20; Benjamin Morrell, \$10.30; Paul March, \$7.50; and Joe Hopson, \$3.20.

Chairman Lester Curtis of the suggestion committee announced that he is highly gratified by the response of the employees to the suggestion plan during the year 1934 and is in hopes that this interest will continue to grow during the coming year and that more employees will participate and share in the cash awards.

### Many Men Are Now On Sick List

(Continued from first page)

A. Holbrook, 140" mill; and Willis Mowday, Bedaux.

Those incapacitated due to accidents are: John Wichuck and Steve Ruffer, masonry; Harry Clinton, By-Products; Harry Shopf, carpenter; Harry Pyle, loading bank; Thomas Scott, pipe; Harold Scott, Bedaux.