

1933-1983

50th Golden Anniversary



The Story

of the

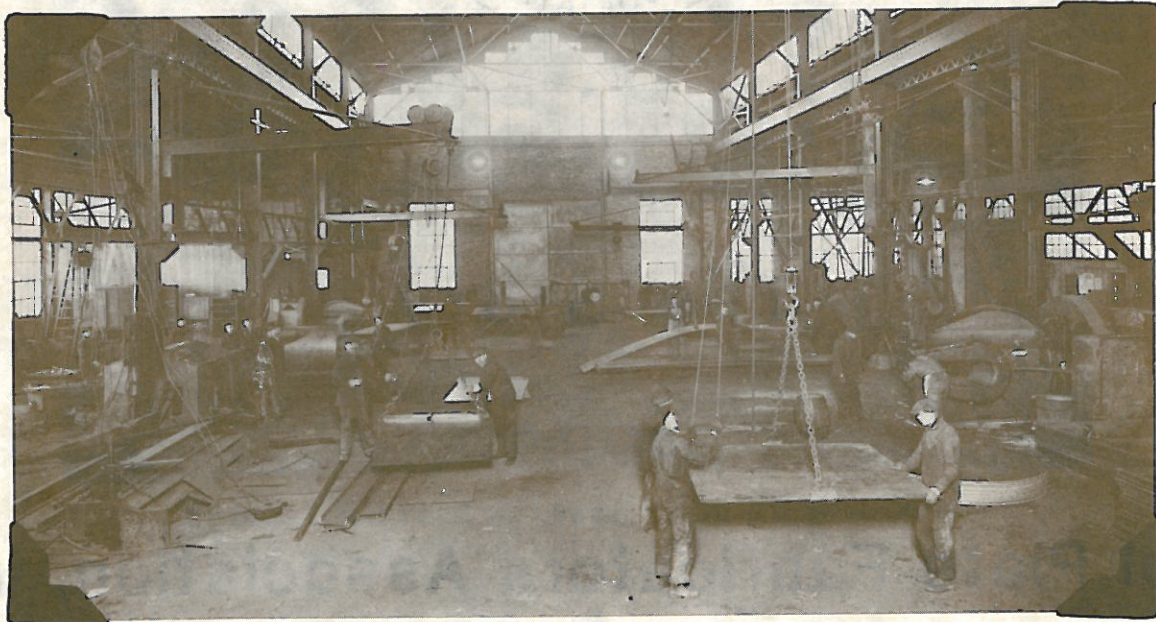
Steel Plate Fabricators Association, Inc.

1933 - 1983

THE STORY OF THE STEEL PLATE
FABRICATORS ASSOCIATION



Nooter Corporation's new shop in 1908



Lasker Boiler shop in 1917

STEEL PLATE FABRICATORS ASSOCIATION, INC.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 17, 1983

I am pleased to congratulate members of the Steel Plate Fabricators Association on your organization's 50th anniversary.

This milestone testifies to a long tradition of providing quality products and service to American industry. Your contributions have been critical to victory in war and to economic growth in peace.

You continue to serve the nation with fabricated steel products essential to such basic industries as utilities, nuclear, oil, gas, chemical, mining, lumbering, agriculture, paper and defense and space. All Americans benefit from your contribution to meeting the needs of industry.

You have my best wishes for continued success as your Association moves toward its centennial of service to the nation.

Ronald Reagan

1933 - 1983

THE STORY OF THE STEEL PLATE FABRICATORS ASSOCIATION

June 15, 1933—a date to remember!

The Steel Plate Fabricators Association was hastily organized on this date to meet the requirements of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's National Recovery Administration—NRA—remember the Blue Eagle! NRA was designed to provide a speedy recovery from the Great Depression of the late '20s and early '30s. President Roosevelt felt trade associations were the medium to assure industrial recovery by developing codes of fair competition for all major industries. These codes of fair competition were to provide for minimum wages for workers, limit workers to 40 hours per week, prohibit piecework, and to establish minimum costs for products or services.



*First photograph of interested plate
fabricators meeting to organize
the Steel Plate Fabricators Association*

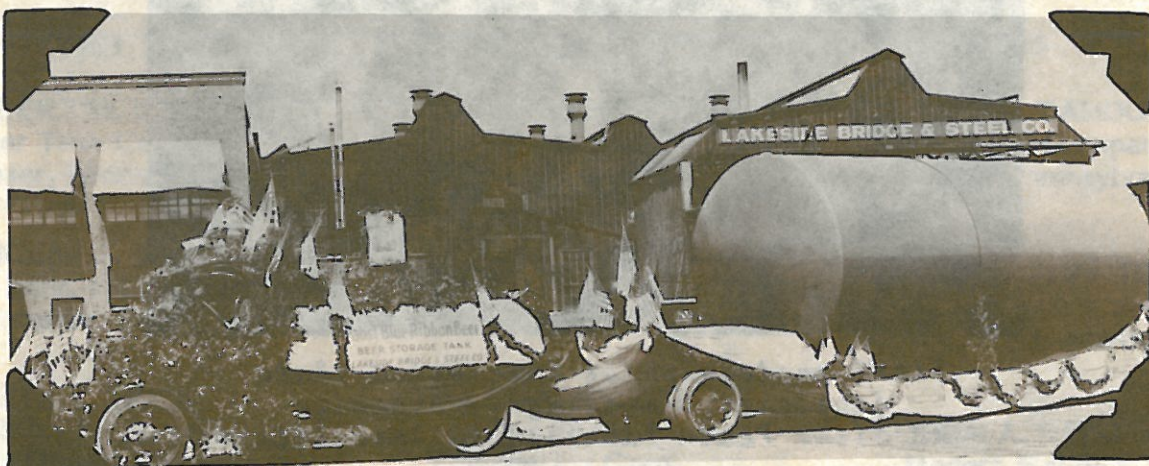
Since there was no association to sponsor a code for the steel plate fabricating industry, a group of interested plate fabricators held an informal meeting in May 1933 to draft plans to organize an association. On June 15, 1933 the Steel Plate Fabricators Association was formally organized and Bylaws adopted at a meeting in Chicago. Officers and Directors elected at this meeting were:

President - M. J. Trees, Chicago Bridge & Iron Company
Vice President - W. H. Jackson, Pittsburgh-Des Moines Steel Co.
Treasurer - A. O. Miller, The Petroleum Iron Works Co.

Directors - R. I. Ingalls, Birmingham Tank Co.
- E. N. Gosselin, Graver Tank & Mfg. Co.
- Bryan Blackburn, R. D. Cole Mfg. Co.
- W. F. Perkins, The Bartlett-Hayward Co.
- C. M. Denise, McClintic-Marshall Co.
- C. S. Patton, Alco Products, Inc.
- H. A. Fitch, Kansas City Structural Steel Co.
- V. P. Marran, Walsh Holyoke Steam Boiler Works
- H. G. Tallerday, Western Pipe & Steel Co.
- W. H. Taylor, Consolidated Steel Corp.
- W. J. Wyatt, Wyatt Metal and Boiler Works



Lukens Steel Brandywine Rolling Mill workers

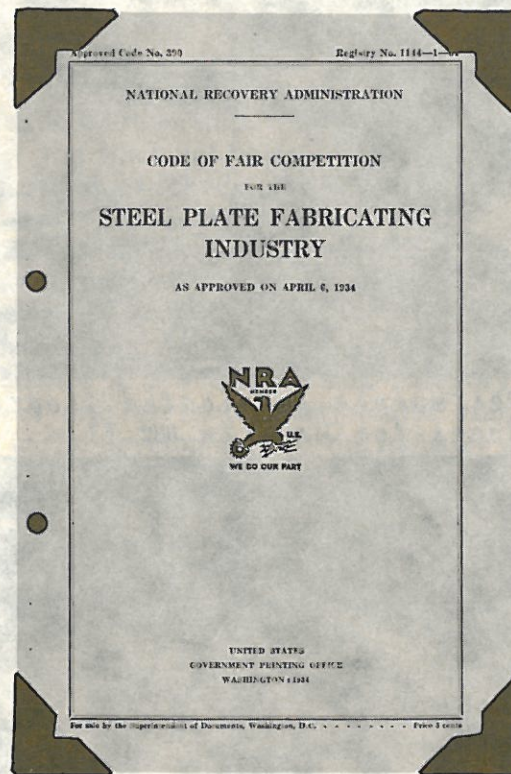


*Lakeside Bridge beer storage tanks in 1933
Labor Day Parade - note F.D.R. photo!*



*GATX Tank Erection Corporation installing
petroleum Lifter Roof Tank*

After several meetings, Code #390, Code of Fair Competition for the Steel Plate Fabricating Industry, was approved on April 6, 1934 to become effective on April 16, 1934.



Later, the U.S. Supreme Court declared the NRA unconstitutional and the Blue Eagle died at midnight, June 16, 1935. Anticipating this action, the SPFA Board of Directors met on June 12, 1935 to assure that the Steel Plate Fabricators Association would continue to represent the industry.

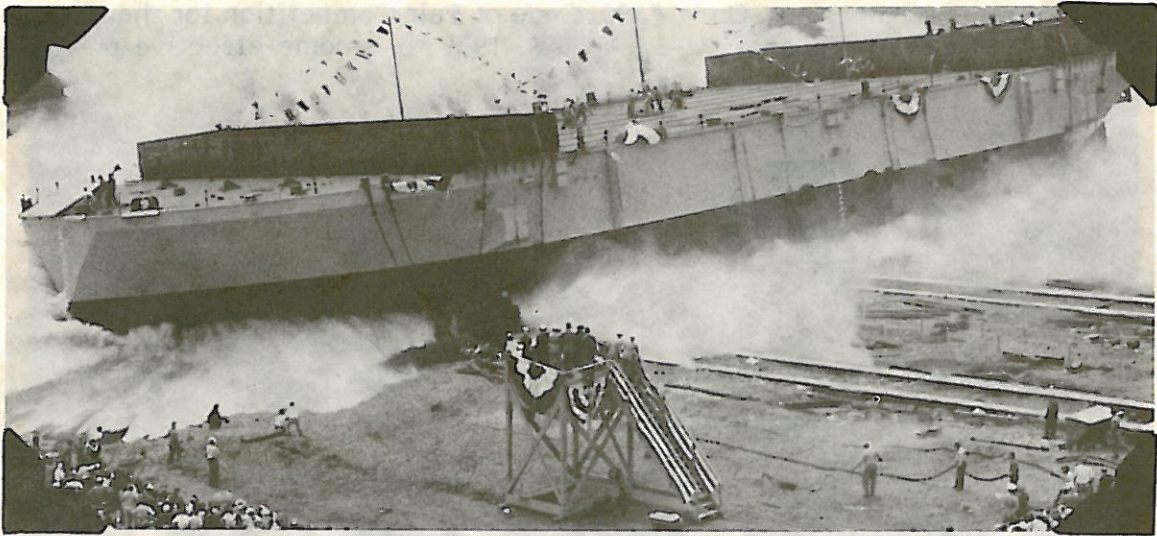
A great deal of credit goes to SPFA's first President, Merle J. Trees of Chicago Bridge & Iron Company, and the original Board of Directors, for guiding SPFA through those trying years of organization and then holding the Association together after NRA's demise. Mr. Trees carried on as President until 1948.

Organized in Chicago, SPFA has continued to locate its office in the Chicago area. Headquarters were in the Chicago Loop until September 1, 1969 when the office was relocated to the western suburb of Hinsdale, and on July 1, 1979 to its current location in suburban Downers Grove.

Tom R. Wyles, employed as Secretary of the Code Authority and Executive Director of SPFA on January 25, 1934, continued to serve until his retirement on February 1, 1954.

J. Dwight Evans was employed as Secretary to assist Mr. Wyles on November 15, 1946 and succeeded Mr. Wyles as Executive Director on February 1, 1954. Mr. Evans retired on May 1, 1965 but served as a consultant until April 19, 1966.

Earl A. Bratton was employed on July 1, 1959 to assist Mr. Evans and served as Public Relations Director. He was named Secretary on April 25, 1963; Executive Secretary on May 1, 1965 with chief administrative authority; and became only the third Executive Director in the history of SPFA on April 19, 1966.



*Pittsburgh-Des Moines fabricated floating
dry docks for Navy in WW II!*



Hahn & Clay Machine & Boiler Works in 1936



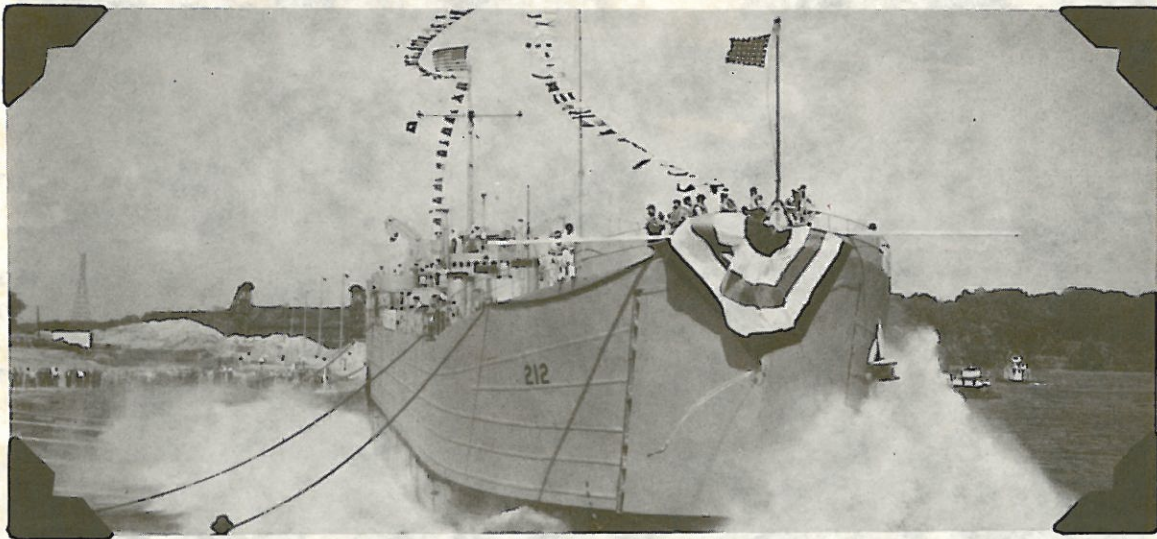
Brighton Corporation original shop in 1930

Long-time faithful office employees included Katherine Phillips from 1943 to 1954, Myrtle Granath Eccles from 1952 to 1969, and Rita Kohs, currently Administrative Assistant, from 1969 on.

On June 28, 1960, SPFA was incorporated in the State of Illinois as a General Not-For-Profit Corporation. In accordance with Illinois law requiring that officers be elected from the Board of Directors, SPFA amended the Bylaws to provide for 12 Directors. The number of Directors was increased to 15 in 1968 and to 18 in 1980 to keep pace with the growth in membership. Currently the Board meets three times each year and is responsible for the financial health of the Association by approving budgets, financial reports, membership dues schedules, and expenditures.

SPFA has continued to be a viable forum for the industry and has enjoyed continued growth in membership affording the industry leaders and smaller member companies the opportunity to share in the many benefits and expertise of joint efforts. Realizing the importance of a closer working relationship with industry suppliers, the Board of Directors established a new membership category for Associate Members in 1964. Associate Members also serve on most major standing committees and help provide a strong alliance in the development of the industry and the Association.

Early in the Association's history the membership worked with the government in the preparation of material for minimum wage determination under the Walsh-Healey Act which never materialized into a regulation. During World War II and the Korean Conflict a great deal of work was done on steel allocations in coordinating the demands of the various agencies such as the Navy, the Army, and the Maritime Commission, and helping our members get into war work suited to their skills and equipment. Also, much useful work then and thereafter was done in obtaining fair treatment under the Office of Price Administration.



During WW II, CBI built 157 LST's

The Government Relations Committee has continued to be active in presenting the industry's position on issues of concern to the industry. A few of those areas currently being monitored are: fabricated steel plate imports, "Buy American" regulations, OSHA Inspections, and the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Program.



RECO plant in 1938



*Ryerson "iron store" in 1867
note masts of sailing ship!*

The SPFA Standing Committees are the backbone of the Association. Present committees include Engineering & Research; Finance; Government Relations; Industrial Relations; Marketing Analysis; Material Management; Membership; Program; Promotion; Quality Assurance/Quality Control; Safety & Health; Supplier Relations; and Tax, Insurance & Accounting. Members are invited and encouraged to participate on these committees. Two other committees, Steel Pipe and Steel Tank, operate with their own funds to promote the use of steel over competitive materials.

SPFA conducts an annual Wage Rates and Fringe Benefits Survey for Hourly Employees; an Annual Industry Financial Study; a Monthly Statistical Program; a Safety Contest; publishes an annual membership Directory; updates and prints safety booklets for both shop and field construction; conducts an annual Safety Poster Contest; holds semiannual Tax, Insurance & Accounting Seminars and semiannual Industrial Relations Workshops; works with the American Iron and Steel Institute and other organizations on research and promotion of fabricated steel plate products; and makes available technical manuals published jointly with AISI.

The Annual Meeting of the Association is held alternately on the East and West Coasts to allow the membership an invaluable opportunity to meet with other members and attend timely business sessions. The Membership Committee holds Regional Membership Luncheon Meetings throughout the country providing the opportunity for guest fabricators to meet local members and learn about SPFA activities.

The viability of this Association has proven itself over the years in resolving many of the problems confronting the industry and will continue to grow in membership and stature to serve large and small steel plate fabricating companies.

Where are we going in the years ahead?

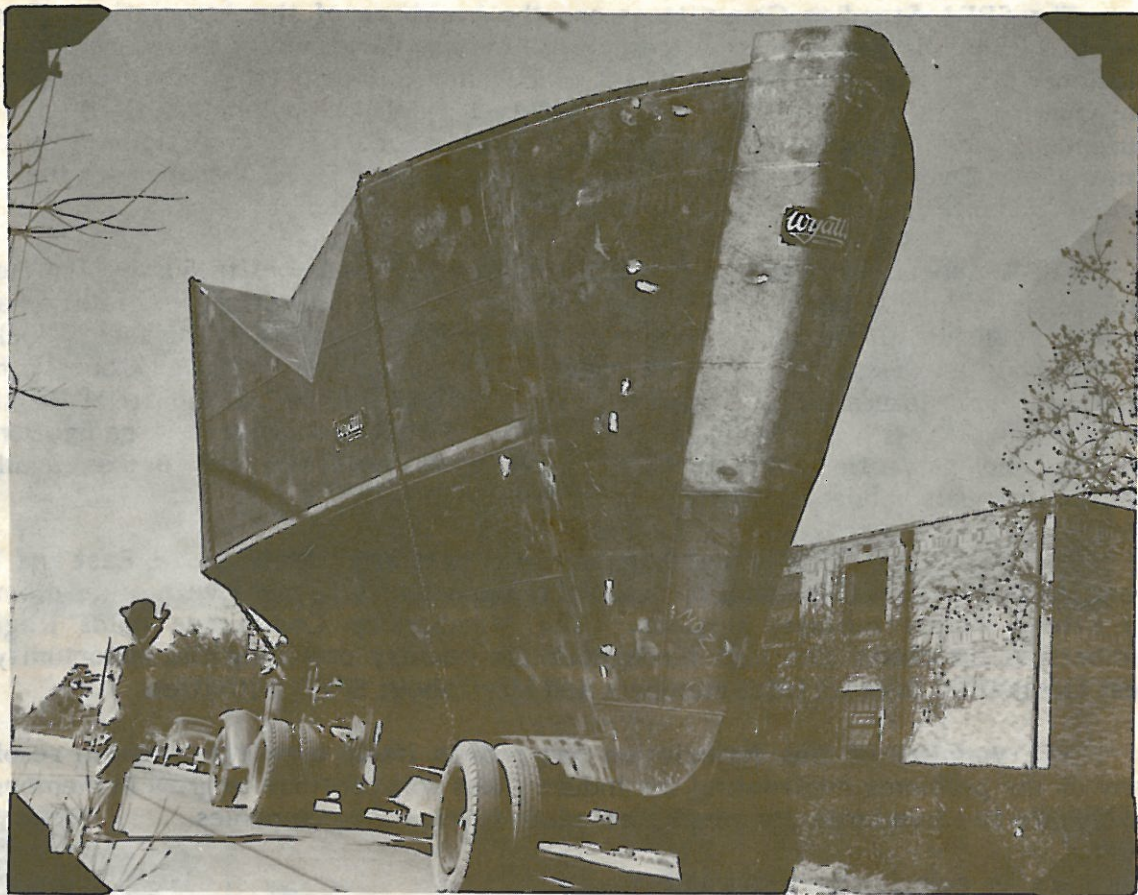
The Board of Directors, as the governing body of its membership, will continue to work with Government to resolve those problems which are of concern to the industry and knows that only a strong organization will develop the working posture which will enable the members to receive due consideration.

As we continue to grow in size and strength of position we will look for new areas of importance to the membership which will benefit the industry as a whole.

Some of the areas which we will be taking a close look at are those dealing with improved productivity, technology, computerization, employee benefits, and safety conditions in the shop and field using the tools of the future. A great deal of emphasis is being placed on the use of new materials, and we plan to continue to monitor these areas.

Our members are proud to belong to this fine organization and to being a part of an industry that concerns itself not only with the profit line but with the benefits which the industry and its employees will receive through the sharing of problems and knowledge in a joint effort. As a steel plate fabricator your company has a responsibility to your employees and the industry to participate in an organization to promote quality in products and ensure continuity of the industry. We want you to be an active participant in this national organization and grow with us.

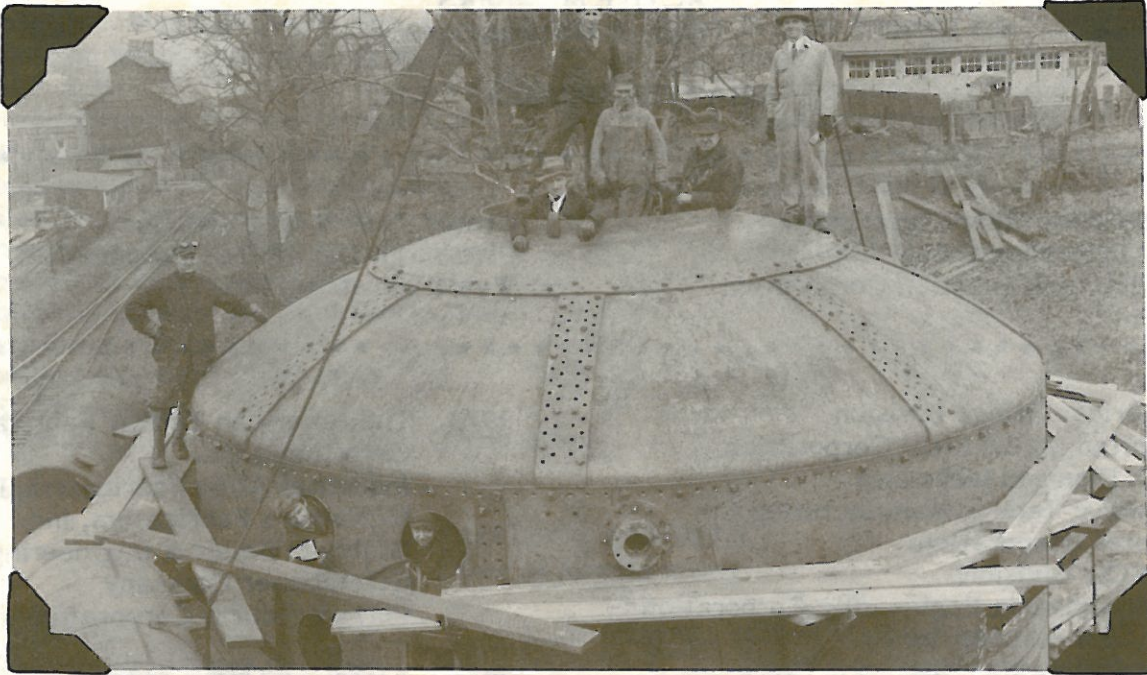
By supporting these cooperative efforts, each member gains from a stronger market, as well as a sound, professional approach toward it. And, of course, the customers of our members share these benefits through the assurance they are purchasing the very best end products and service available from the most proficient fabricators.



Wyatt fabricated boat sections in WW II



Fisher Tank lunch break in original shop in 1953



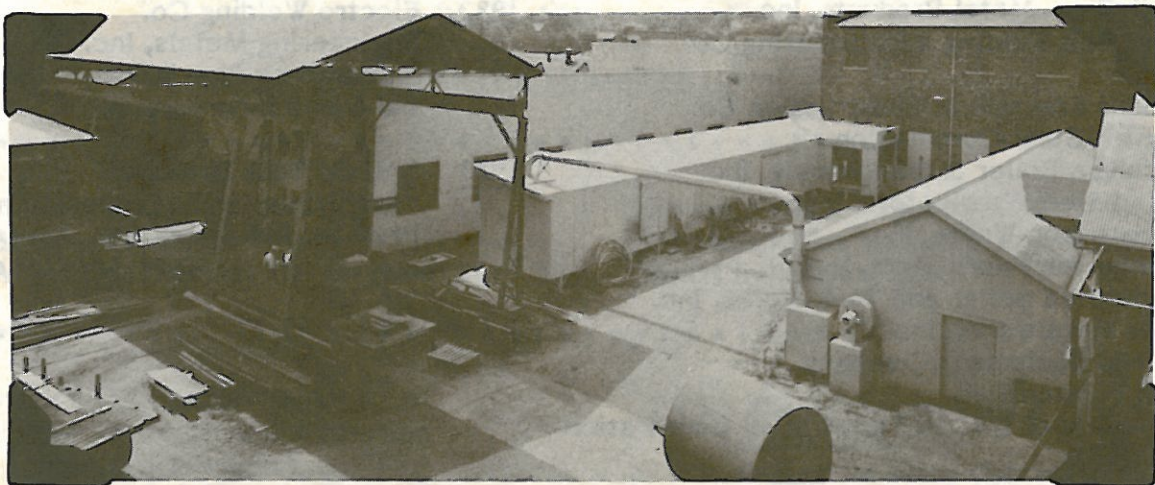
Posey Iron Works vessel in 1915



McCarthy Tank plant in 1932



Welk Bros. plant in 1948



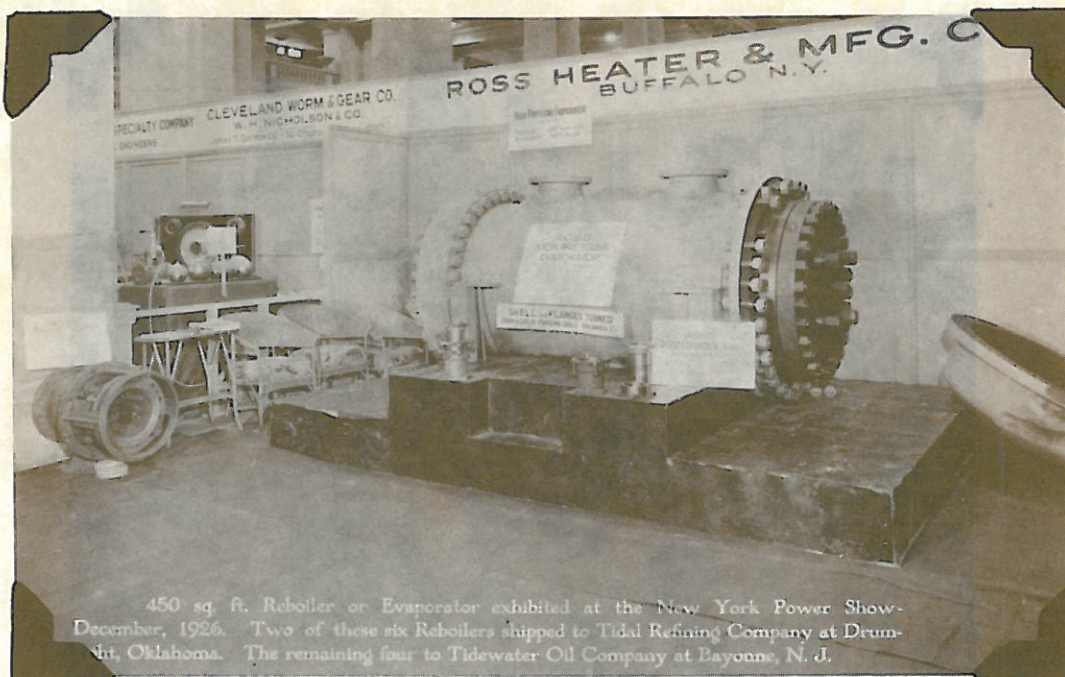
Bishopric plant in 1955



Kickham Boiler plant in 1920

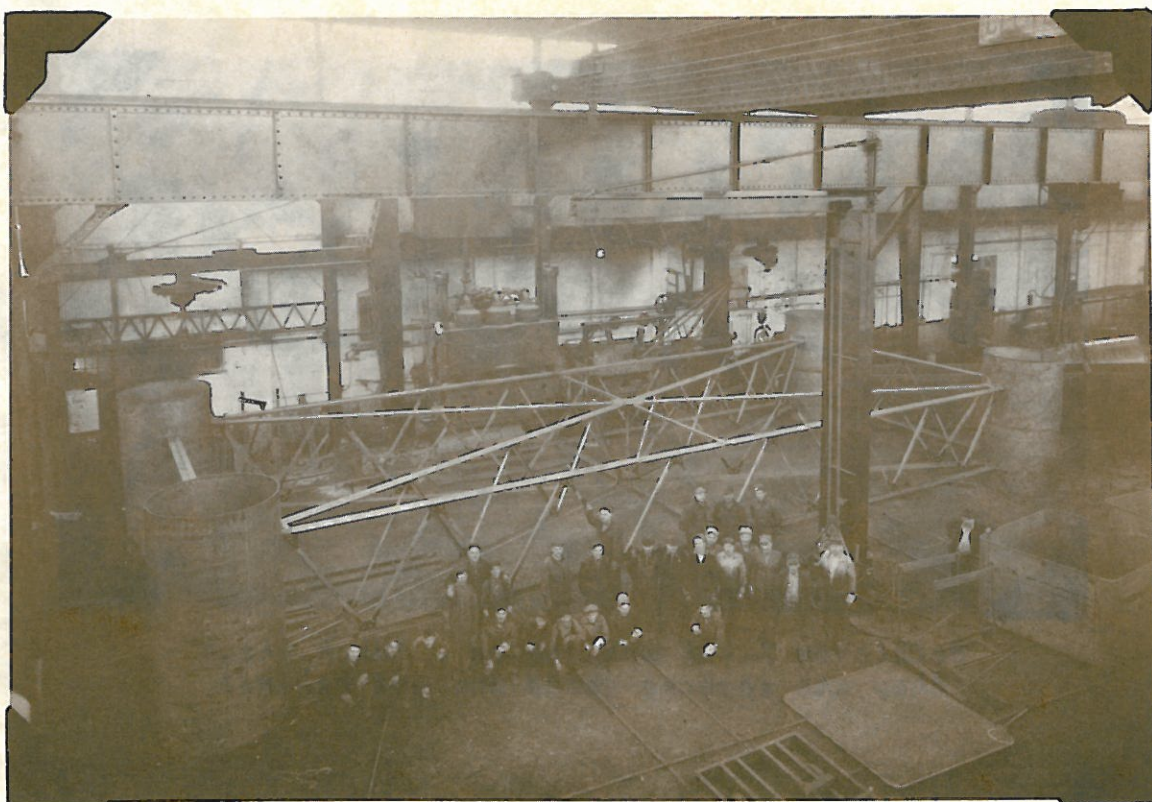


Graver Tank field erection crew in 1925



450 sq. ft. Reboiler or Evaporator exhibited at the New York Power Show-December, 1926. Two of these six Reboilers shipped to Tidal Refining Company at Drumright, Oklahoma. The remaining four to Tidewater Oil Company at Bayonne, N. J.

American Standard, originally Ross Heater, exhibiting Evaporator in 1926

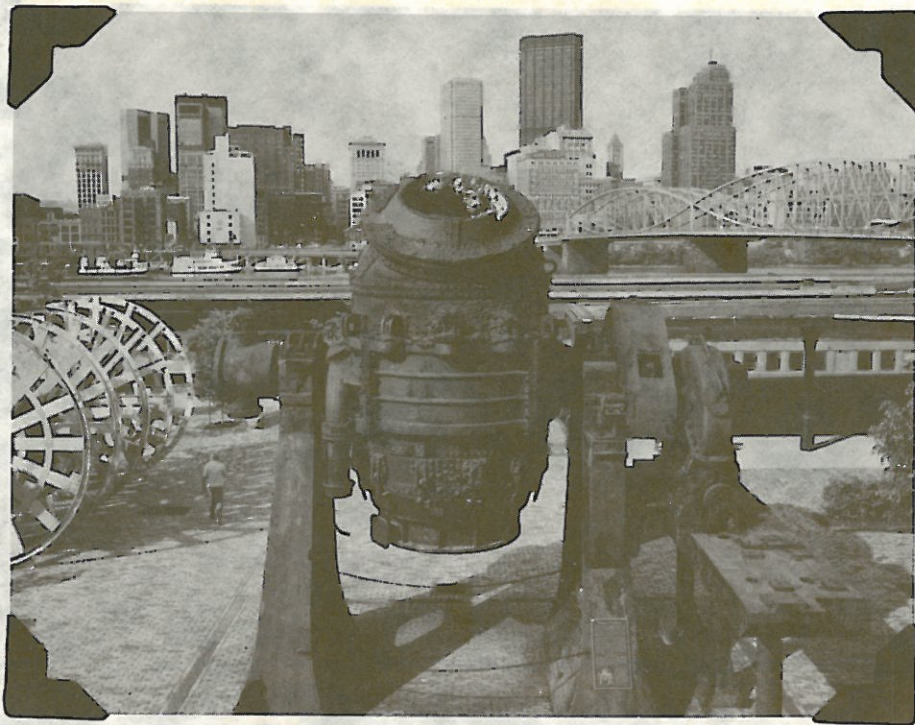


NABCO fabricating a welded kettle during WW II

STEEL PLATE FABRICATORS ASSOCIATION, INC.

3201 RIVER ROAD - SUITE 102
DOWNER BROOK, ILLINOIS 60015





*Pennsylvania Engineering Bessemer Converter
built in 1930 - now historical landmark
at Station Square, Pittsburgh*



*Bethlehem Steel workers on a lunch break -
they are looking ahead and not behind!*



STEEL PLATE FABRICATORS ASSOCIATION, INC.

2901 FINLEY ROAD - SUITE 103

DOWNERS GROVE, ILLINOIS 60515