

The History of Sparrows Point:

An Epic Civilization

by

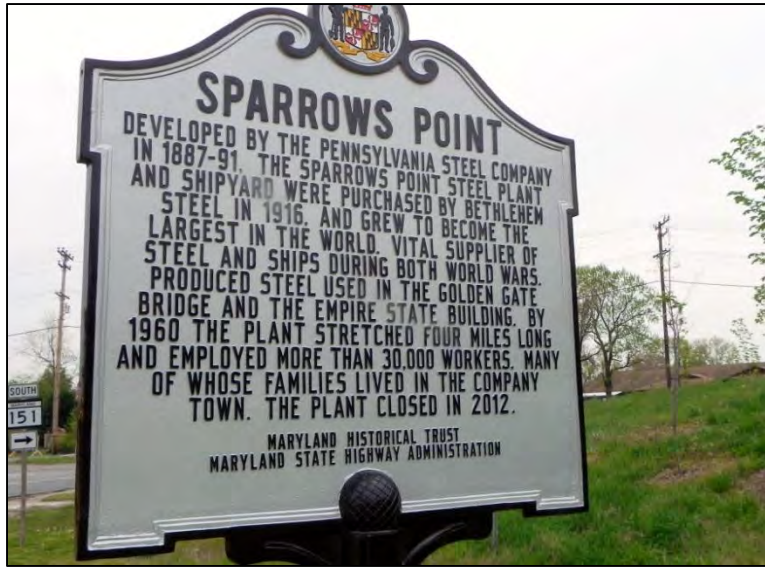
Bill Barry

Retired Director of Labor Studies

The Community College of Baltimore County-Dundalk

Historical Society of Baltimore County

February 12, 2017



If we are living in “post-industrial Baltimore,” what was “industrial Baltimore?”

Why did it end (if it has)?

What caused it?

What could we have done to change the pattern?

What can we do tomorrow to change

the pattern?

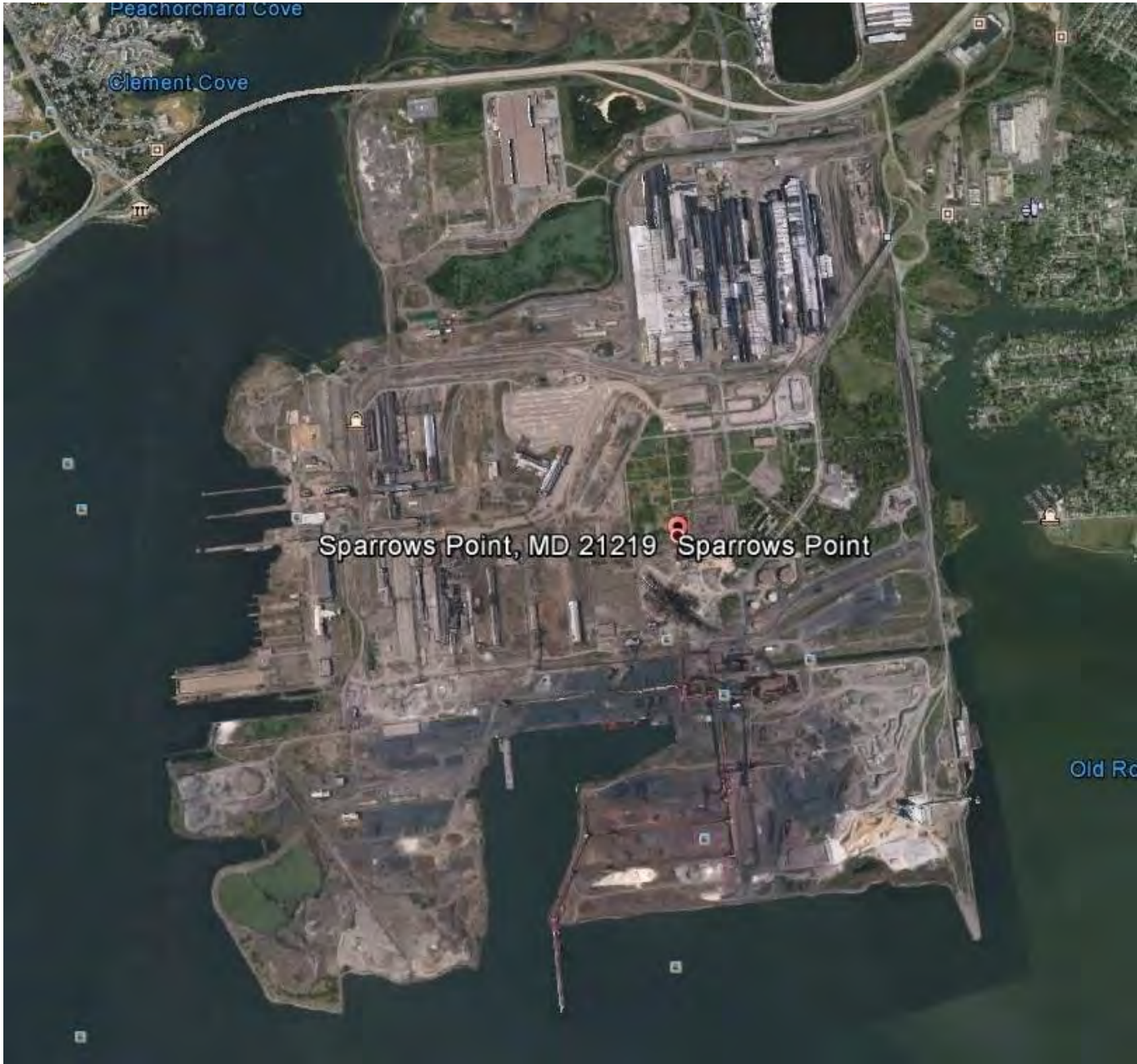
Sparrows Point is a symbol of both “industrial” and post-industrial” Baltimore, so

Why did it decline and close?

What could have been done to change this development?

What can we do tomorrow to prevent another closure?





Sparrows Point, MD 21219 Sparrows Point

Sparrow's Point was originally marshland home to Native American tribes for 8,000 years until 400 acres was granted to Thomas Sparrow in 1652 by Cecil Calvert, who was trying to attract settlers to what was then known as "the great northern woods." Sparrow, who actually lived in Anne Arundel County, later received 600 more acres as a proprietary land grant.

His son, Solomon Sparrow, made a home there in 1664, calling it "Sparrow's Nest." Later in the 1700's the area became home to other families, who farmed and raised crops, built homes and hunting lodges and first bred the Chesapeake Bay retriever.

By the 1860's much of the land, about 385 acres, was owned by the Fitzell family, who raised peaches, and the area was renamed "Sparrows Point."

In 1887, the Fitzells sold the land to Pennsylvania Steel for its subsidiary, Maryland Steel, as the location was good for importing raw materials, like iron ore from Cuba.



The Sparrows Point cemetery was located behind I Street on the North Side of town near the garages but the burial ground was there long before either the town or the mill came into being.

Retired Sparrows Point police officer Charles Ivey drew a diagram of the town, showing that the graveyard was off 9th Street, across an alley behind the indoor pistol range and the laundry, near the garages.

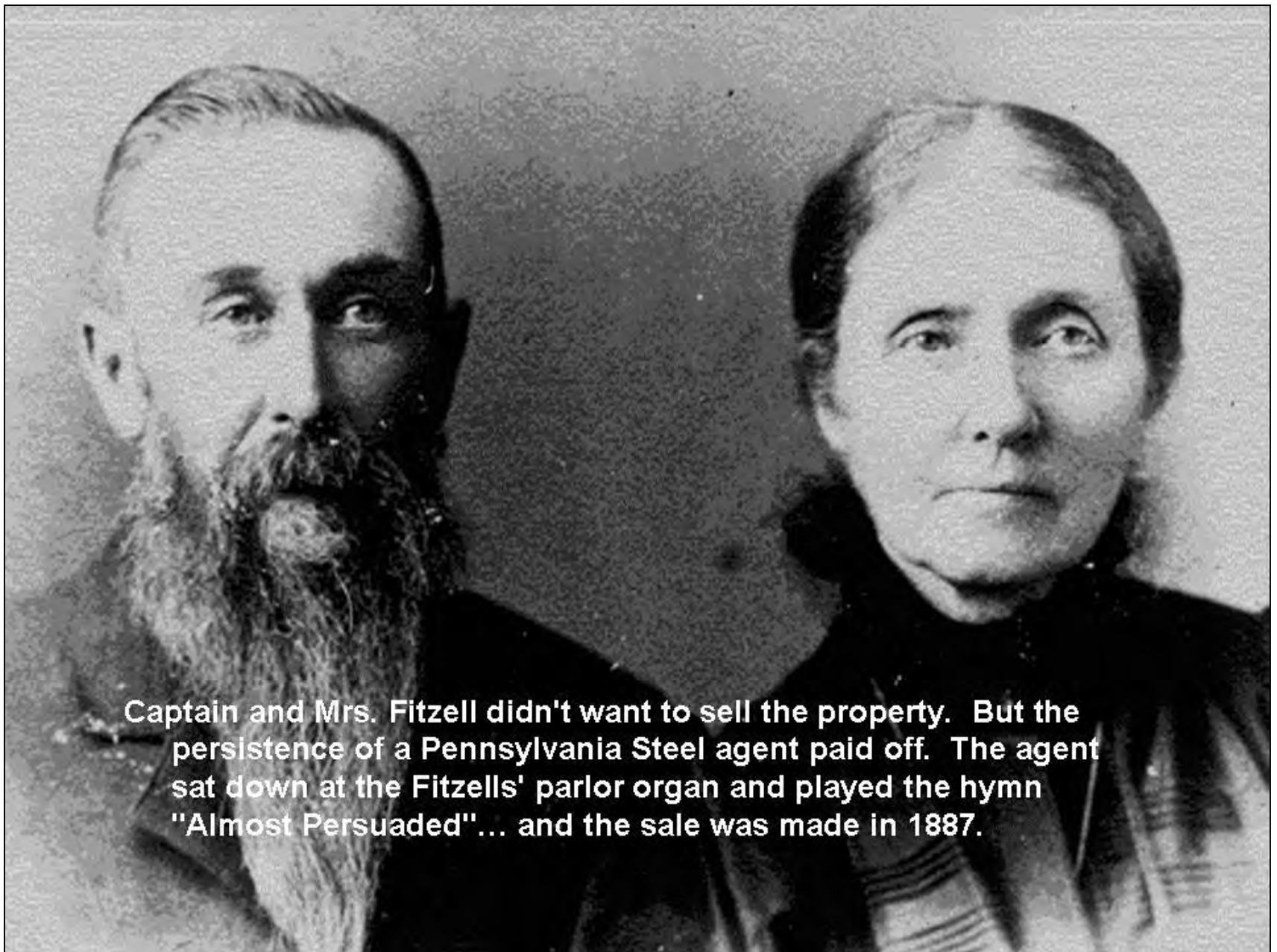


Probably the Trotten family burial place, it contained the graves of

- John Trotten, who died in 1809 at age 38,
- Sarah Trotten, who died in 1856 at age 68,
- James Trotten, who died in 1804 at the age of 9 months
- Thomas Long, who died in 1823 at age 16.



FITZELL'S FARM & PEACH-ORCHARD SPARROWS POINT MD. 1889



Captain and Mrs. Fitzell didn't want to sell the property. But the persistence of a Pennsylvania Steel agent paid off. The agent sat down at the Fitzells' parlor organ and played the hymn "Almost Persuaded"... and the sale was made in 1887.

Maryland Steel Company at Sparrows Point opened in 1887, a division of Pennsylvania Steel, as a large integrated mill with a company town of 3,000.

In 1888, the state of Maryland gave the company total control over the company town, from “the hiring of teachers at the local schools to the enforcement of town justice and the collection of residential garbage.”

On July 27, 1891 the Sparrow's Point plant was spun off as a separate subsidiary, the Maryland Steel Company of Baltimore County, with Frederick Wood as president and Rufus Wood as General Agent. A shipbuilding division was added later in 1891. Frederick Wood ran the works and introduced a number of important technical improvements while Rufus was responsible for the running of the company town, which reflected the influence of the Lowell, MA, another company town where he grew up.

IRON AND STEEL AND MACHINERY



FREDERICK W. WOOD,
Born, Lowell, Mass., March 16th, 1857.
President, Maryland Steel Company.



RUFUS K. WOOD,
Born, Lowell, Mass., November 8th, 1818.
General Agent, Maryland Steel Company. Founder
of Public School Kindergartens in
Maryland, 1892.

The editor of the JOURNAL has the pleasure to enjoy the acquaintance of near all the active officers of the Company, whose characters as christian gentlemen and public spirited men is too well known to preclude the possibility that they as a body, or individually, would be guilty of allowing any oppression to be practiced upon those in their employ; and especially is it so of Col. Walter S. Franklin, the able Superintendent, who is well known throughout Baltimore county, as one of the very best qualified men who could be placed over such important works, and over men, every one of whom will cheerfully bear testimony to his unvarying kindness and consideration in the discharge of the important duties committed to his hands. It were well if all communities (such as Steelton) could be owned and operated by such gentlemen as own the Steelton works, and have so honorable high-toned a gentleman as its Superintendent, Col. Walter S. Franklin.]

— MARYLAND JOURNAL
TOWSON, OCTOBER 20,
1888

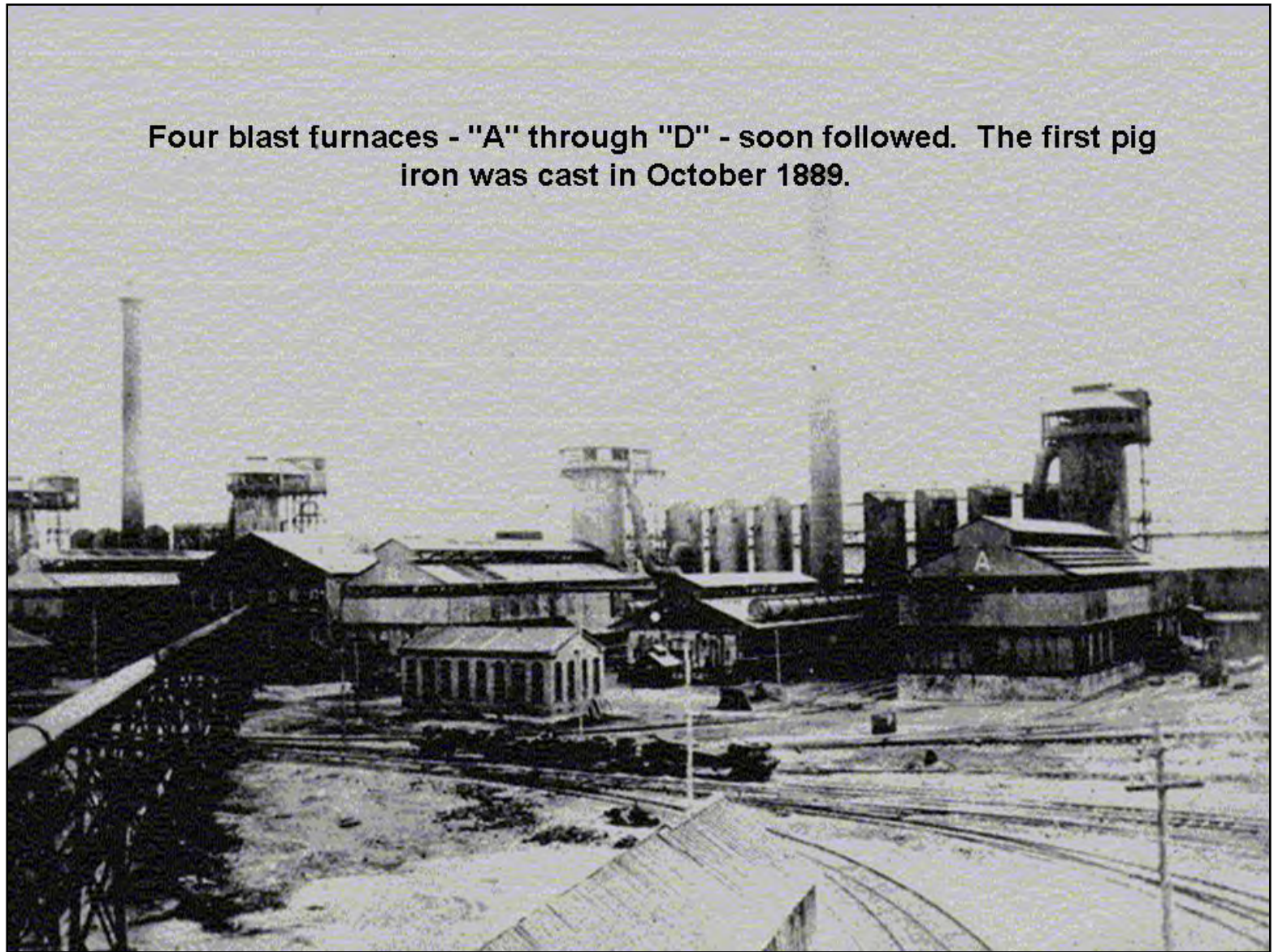
Courtesy of
John McGrain

Workingmen at Sparrow's Point.—Col. Walter S. Franklin, the Superintendent of the iron works at Steelton, reviewed last night the report prepared by a committee of the Federation of Labor in reference to the treatment of the workmen at that place. He said that every foot of lumber used in the construction of the buildings had been bought in Maryland, and that the supplies for daily use are bought in Baltimore. The prices charged at the store, which is a separate concern from the iron company, are regulated altogether by Baltimore prices, and are not so exorbitant as represented. Flour is the only article not purchased in the State, and that is manufactured by the company, it having fine mills in Pennsylvania. In the schedule of prices he says that bricklayers receive \$2.75 per day, carpenters \$2, and laborers about \$1.25. Much of the work is being done by contract, and the company is in no way responsible for the pay of the workingmen. Col. Franklin also said that more Americans are employed than Germans. In regard to the rental of rooms he said that four men are not compelled to live in one room. One man can have a room all to himself if he wants it. The rent of 75 cents per month for each man he regards as very small, and includes cooking utensils. The barracks of which complaint is made are temporary structures and are to disappear as soon as more substantial buildings can be constructed. Already eighty-one dwellings have been put up. Col. Franklin says there is nothing compulsory about Steelton, and that he has no objection to the Knight of Labor.

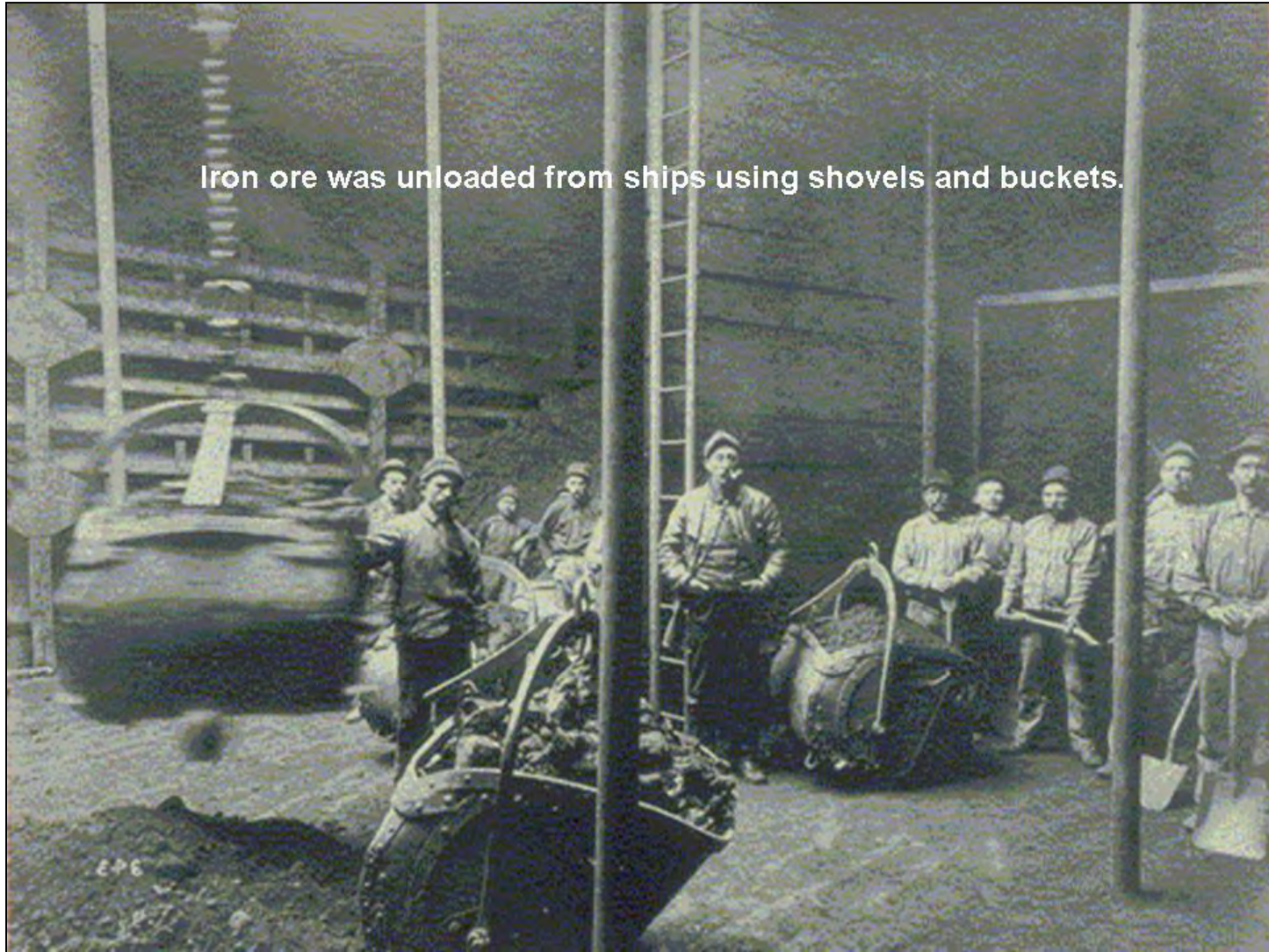
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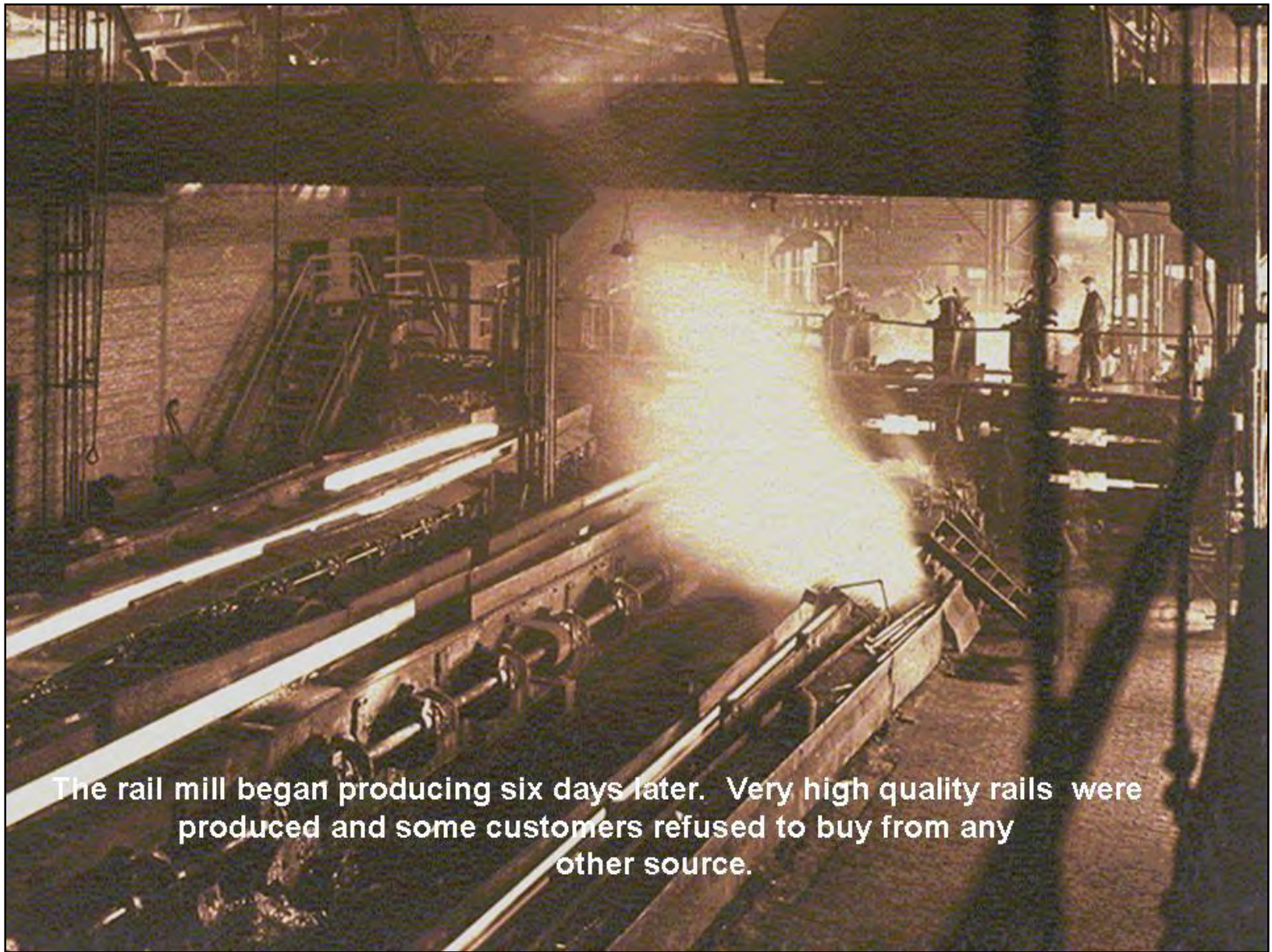
[Having been a visitor to Steelton, we can testify that the Company's treatment of its employees is of the most generous character. Everything that can conduce to their happiness and comfort is provided. Commodious and comfortable, two-story, four and six-room houses have been built by the Company which rent for from \$6 to \$8 per month, almost a nominal sum. Comfortable houses have also been erected for colored people. They are in a community to themselves and they are socially in contact with the whites only when on duty, or upon such occasions as are absolutely necessary. As to the "rooms" complained of they are merely temporary structures and are similar to those used where works of public improvement are being constructed. The Company, in the treatment of its employees, is humane to the fullest extent. As above stated, the prices in the store are based upon those in the general markets. As fine meats are sold there as anywhere in the Baltimore markets, and the prices are, relatively, no higher. The same as to all goods sold at Steelton. All know that first-class goods fetch the best prices. The workmen at Steelton do not pay any more for the character of the goods they purchase than they would if they purchased the same goods in the Baltimore markets.

Four blast furnaces - "A" through "D" - soon followed. The first pig iron was cast in October 1889.



Iron ore was unloaded from ships using shovels and buckets.





The rail mill began producing six days later. Very high quality rails were produced and some customers refused to buy from any other source.

The First Strike at Sparrow's Point.

The first strike in the history of Sparrow's Point occurred yesterday, when forty-two Hungarians employed by the Joseph R. Foard Company in unloading iron ore from the steamship Irvington quit work. They made things lively for awhile, and employed their full vocabulary when they found themselves defeated and discharged. An equal number of colored men took their places, and the work was delayed but a short time.

Baltimore American and Commercial Advertiser – May 7, 1890 p. 6

Courtesy of Tom Hollowak

“Two Fatal Accidents at Sparrow’s Point. –

Mr. Robert Tippet, an inspector of boilers in the employ of the Maryland Steel Company at Sparrow’s Point, was injured by the explosion shortly before noon on Wednesday, and died at the Point, Thursday morning. Mr. Tippet was employed as an overseer of all the boilers, and while on top of the rail mill boilers, the valve exploded. The force of the explosion blew him off the top of the boilers. He was scalded from his face to his knees, and his skull was fractured by the fall. The cause of the explosion is unknown.”

“Michael Sheliga, a Polish laborer in the boiler shop, was instantly killed at noon Thursday. Sheliga attempted to cross the railroad track ahead of a shifter that was running into the round house. He was struck and killed. Sheliga was about twenty years old.”

--Baltimore County Democrat (July 11, 1891)

---Courtesy John McGrain



This rare photo is an old post card dating from the early 1900's. It's faint caption reads "D" STREET, LODGES AND MANUEL TRAINING SCHOOL, SPARROWS POINT, MD". It's hard to believe, but the third building down, with the a small canopy protruding, is actually the original town of Sparrows Point's school built in 1887. (See photos Nos. 1 and 17).







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Early view on "P" Street, showing a typical "wash-day".



The Sparrows Point kindergarten, which opened in 1892, was the first kindergarten south of the Mason-Dixon Line



4th and "D" Streets in 1925. A "double-decker" No. 26 street car (known as the "Red Rocket" in front of what was once the original 1888 school. It's now in use as the drug store - in downtown Sparrows Point.

17

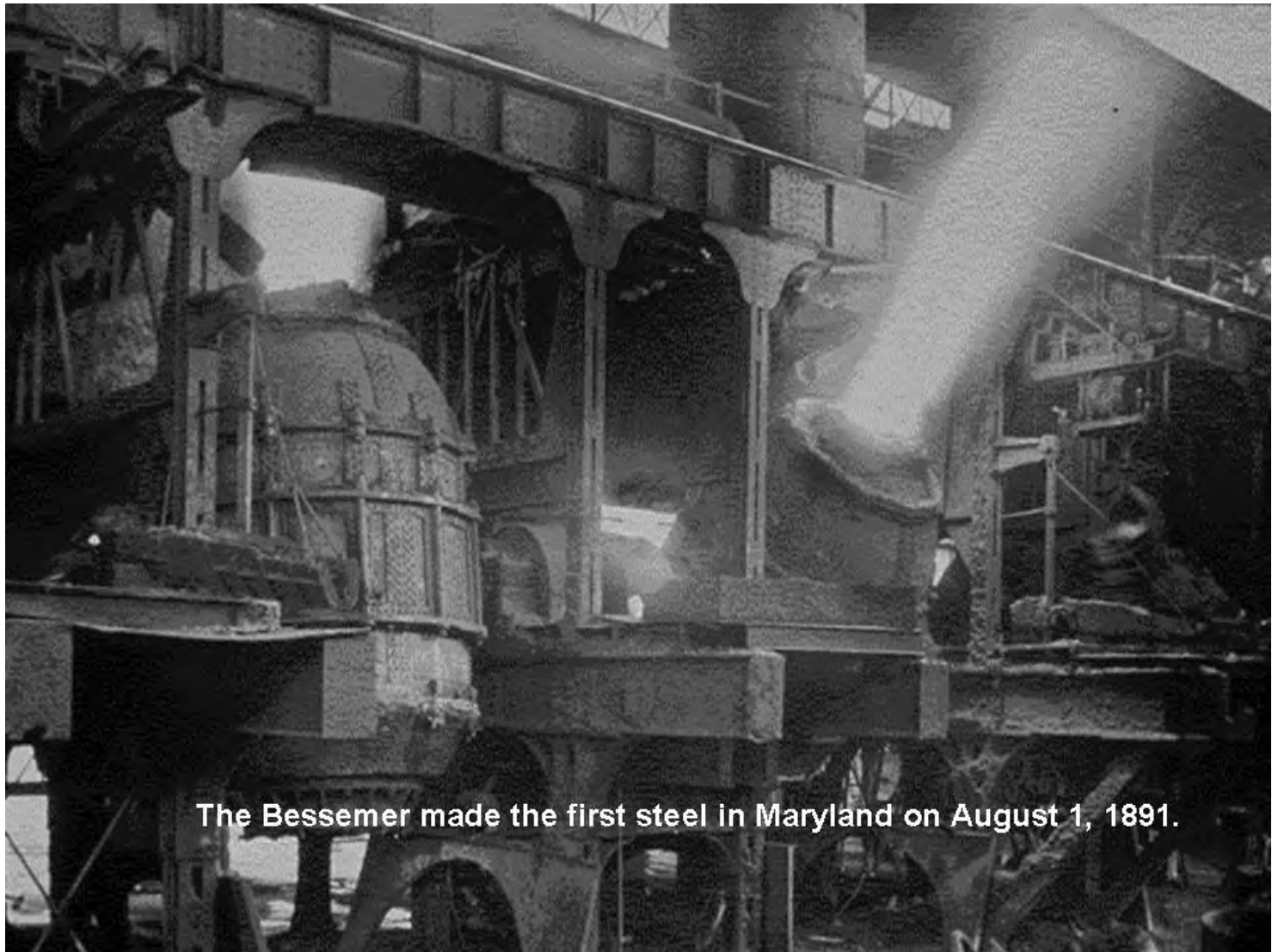
When the first streetcar arrived in 1903, school children were given the day off to celebrate the event.

Photo courtesy of Mike Stilwell

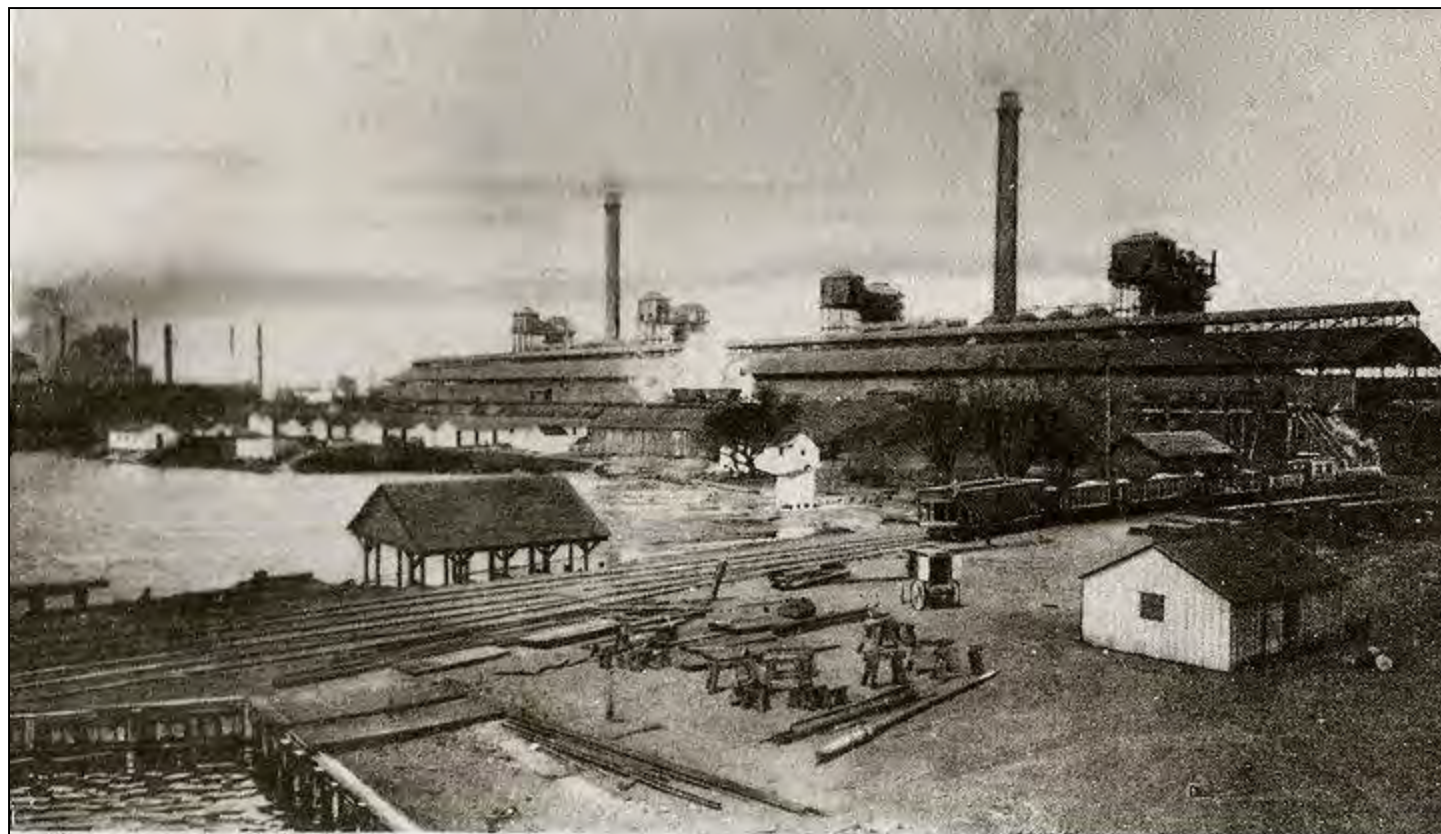


Quarters, or barracks, on Sparrows Point, where single African American men who worked for Bethlehem Steel Mill resided until they were able to secure a home on Sparrows Point for their families.

---Photo courtesy Louis Diggs



The Bessemer made the first steel in Maryland on August 1, 1891.



Picture from pre-1900 post card captioned "Furnaces of the Maryland Steel Co., Sparrows Point Md". Shanties for early workers can be seen middle left. Note buggy standing alone. (Autos and trucks were not in general use yet.)



An excellent 1890 view of the ship yard (left), with the Bessemer, Rail Mill, Blooming Mill, and others. The town would develop to the right of the picture - which was taken from the top of blast furnace "A" - part of which is seen in the lower right corner.


160

MARYLAND STEEL COMPANY.

Law Martin Worked 1st to 15th *June 97*

Hours or Tons.	Rate.	
<i>3033</i>	<i>60</i>	Total Earnings: <i>18 31</i>
		Stone, <i>11 60</i>
		Rent, <i>6 50</i>
		Miscel's. <i>20</i>
		Balance, <i>— 01</i>

Explanations on Monday following
General Pay Day.



June, 1897 pay stub (the worker was paid by tonnage)—
 Courtesy Tony Saladino

Sparrow's Point, Maryland.

January 9th, 1897.

Under this date the Maryland Steel Company hereby agrees to pay R. W. Finch four cents (4¢) per ton for unloading from his scows into cars on its wharf such shells as may be used in blast furnace "A" in the process of smelting weekly. The account to be taken from the blast furnace records.

R. W. Finch hereby agrees to load all other shells he furnishes the Maryland Steel Company into cars on its wharf for storage for future use without charge.

This arrangement to be discontinued at any time with one week's notice.

WITNESS:

J. Park

Rupert H. Wood

General Agent Maryland Steel Co.

A. W. Finch

10716.

SPARROW'S POINT STORE COMPANY.

No. 4455 Sparrow's Point, Baltimore Co., July 5th 1899

Mr. James L. Kwole
Lebanon Pa

Please furnish us the following articles, and send bill of same direct to this office:

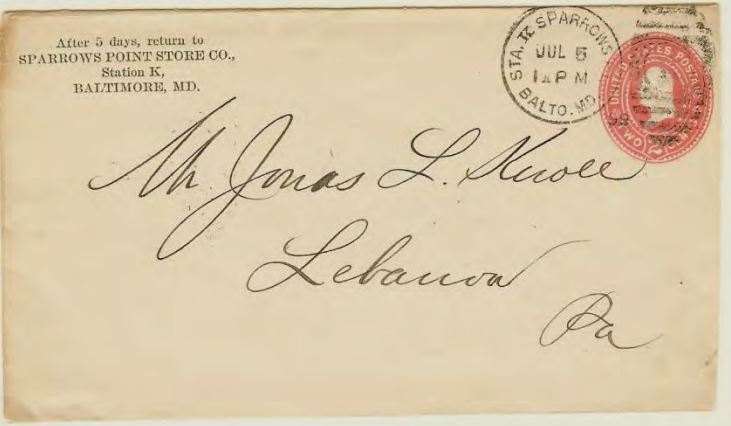
1 Family Washer
1 Kettle

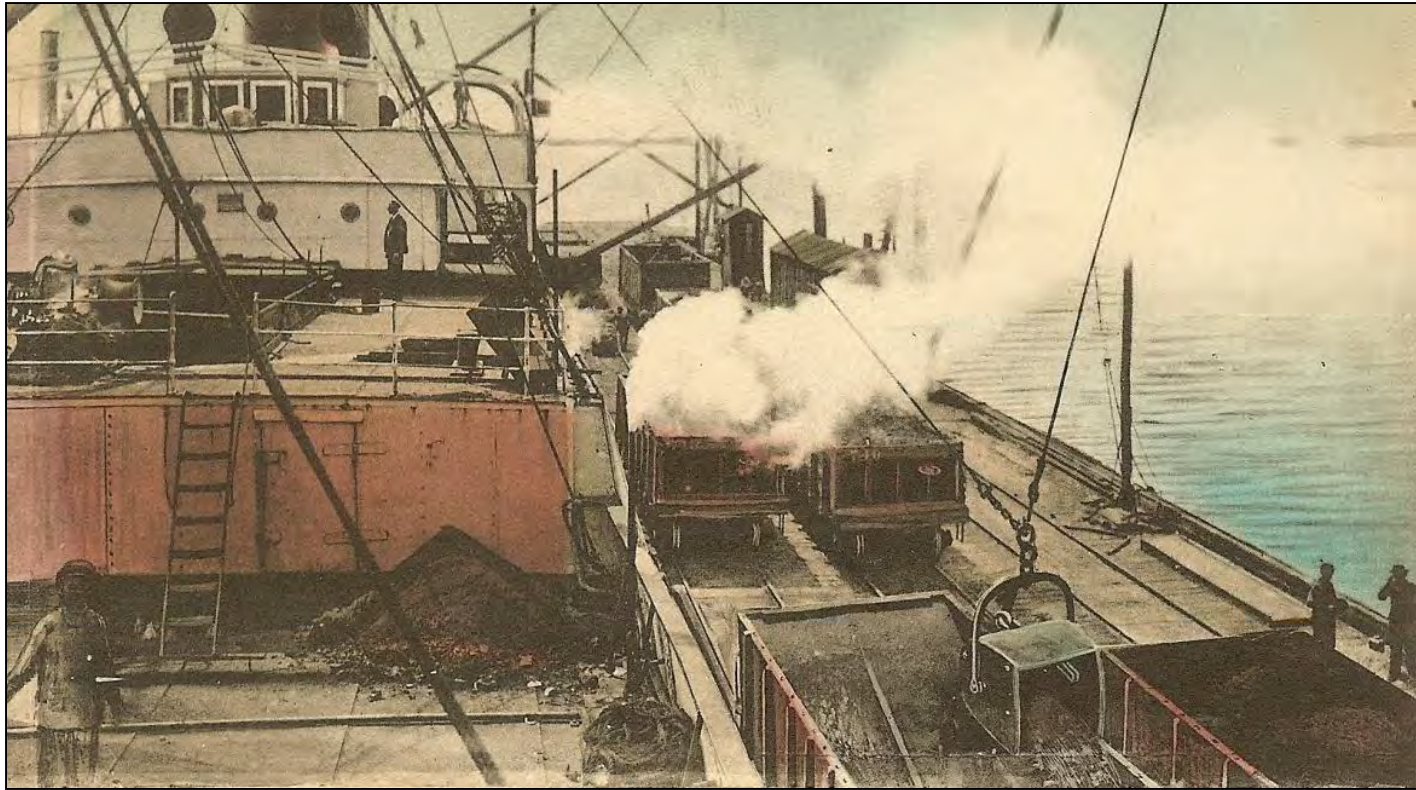
Ship *As usual*
Mark Sparrow's Point Store Co.
Sparrow's Point Md

And oblige,
Yours truly,
W. V. Samuel
Gen'l Supt.

State number of order on invoice, and send invoice and bill of lading with each shipment.

Receipt
Sparrows Point Company Store
July, 1899





“This is an Albetype postcard published sometime after 1907, of unloading ore at Sp. Point. Probably hand-colored.” – courtesy of John McGrain

The approximately 7,000 men employed in the mills and shipyard during the 1910's were well paid but worked hard and long for their money. There were only two turns--the day shift and the night shift--and the men would "swing" between the two.

A steelworker's "regular" hours were as follows:

<u>DAY TURN (one week)</u>		
Sunday	Off	-
Monday	7 a. m. to 6 p. m.	11 hours
Tuesday	7 a. m. to 6 p. m.	11 "
Wednesday	7 a. m. to 6 p. m.	11 "
Thursday	7 a. m. to 5 p. m.	10 "
Friday	7 a. m. to 6 p. m. (Pay day)	11 "
Saturday	7 a. m. to 5 p. m.	<u>10 "</u>
	Total	64 hours

<u>NIGHT TURN (one week)</u>		
Sunday	7 a. m. to 7 a. m. (Mon.)	24 hours
Monday	6 p. m. to 7 a. m. (Tues.)	13 "
Tuesday	6 p. m. to 7 a. m. (Wed.)	13 "
Wednesday	6 p. m. to 7 a. m. (Thur.)	13 "
Thursday	5 p. m. to 7 a. m. (Fri.)	14 "
Friday	6 p. m. to 7 a. m. (Sat.)	13 "
Saturday	5 p. m. to 7 a. m. (Sun.)	<u>14 "</u>
	Total	104 hours



Iron & Brass Workers--1913

Baltimore Greet With Open Arms Her New Citizen--Charles M. Schwab

NOTABLE MEN WELCOME HIM

A View Of The Guests Seated At The Dinner Last Night



SCHWAB IS EVERYTHING

Special Willard Gorton Report In Special At Request

NEAR 40,000 MORE PEOPLE HERE

President of U. S. and W. Charles M. Schwab last night, Mayor Willard Gorton, president of the Baltimore and Ohio B. & O., 1916, 1917.

Speaking at the dinner to Charles M. Schwab last night, Mayor Willard Gorton, president of the Baltimore and Ohio B. & O., 1916, 1917.

"I believe in the future of this country and in the future of the people of this country," Mayor Willard Gorton said last night in welcoming Charles M. Schwab to Baltimore. "I believe in the future of this country and in the future of the people of this country."

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The "Sun" wrote about the Charles Schwab dinner in Baltimore in 1916. He announced the purchase of the plant by Bethlehem and a 50 million dollar expansion.

Continued from Page 1.

...the dinner was a grand affair... the guests were seated at long tables... the atmosphere was one of cordiality and hospitality...

MAJORITY OF GUESTS WERE

...the majority of the guests were men... many of them were prominent in their respective fields...

FINANCIAL MEN ARRIVED BY

...financial men arrived by train... they were met by a delegation of city officials...

Continued on Page 2.

SCHWAB HAS BIG PLANS

Willing Two Years Ago To Spend
Millions At Sparrows Point.

THOUGHT TO HOLD SAME VIEW

City Register Gwinn Quotes New
Owner Of Steelton And Predicts
Bright Future.

If previous statements made by Charles M. Schwab, head of the Bethlehem Steel Company, still hold true Sparrows Point is on the threshold of a prosperity that will exceed its fondest hopes and Baltimore also will be greatly benefited.

Two years ago Mr. Schwab in a conversation with City Register Gwinn relative to the desirability of the purchase of the Sparrows Point works by Mr. Schwab's company, expressed himself as being very anxious to acquire control of the plant.

"Why, if I could have got it last summer when I made the try, I had plans all made to spend between \$15,000,000 and \$20,000,000 on it right away, enlarging it and making it fit for the production which it ought to turn out."



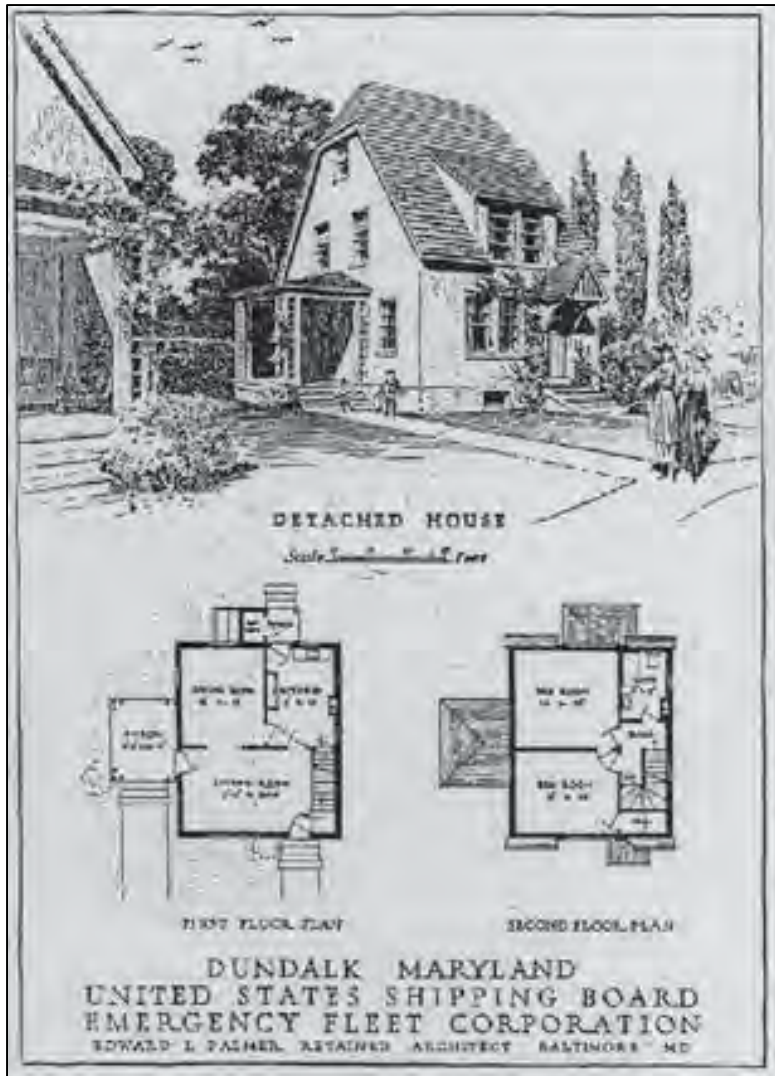
BETHLEHEM STEEL
VOL. I. MAY 1 1918 NO. I.

Our Mr. Schwab
UNCLE SAM'S DIRECTOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY FLEET CORPORATION



BETHLEHEM STEEL CO.
SHEET & TIN PLATE PLANT
SPARROWS POINT, MD.

The original 12 hot mills begin to take shape in June 1917. A single shaft, with a power wheel at its center, drove six mills. The other group of six mills is in the background. Reheating furnaces are at the left. These mills were marked "National Roll & Foundry Co., Avonmore, Pa."



1917 The President of the Roland Park Company teamed with Bethlehem Steel for a planned community in Dundalk, intended to house the influx of steelworkers brought on by the First World War.

Gene DiGennaro “So good ol' Dundalk (my hometown) has a Roland Park connection. Who says Dundalk ain't got class Hon!”

[Sharon Curl Remmey](#) ”I grew up in Logan Village on Yorkway. Our houses were built for Bethlehem steel employees. The houses were all basically the same inside. The second floors were unfinished, had one bathroom and very little closet space. My Dad and uncle finished our second floor off giving us two extra bedrooms with a hallway and closet.”

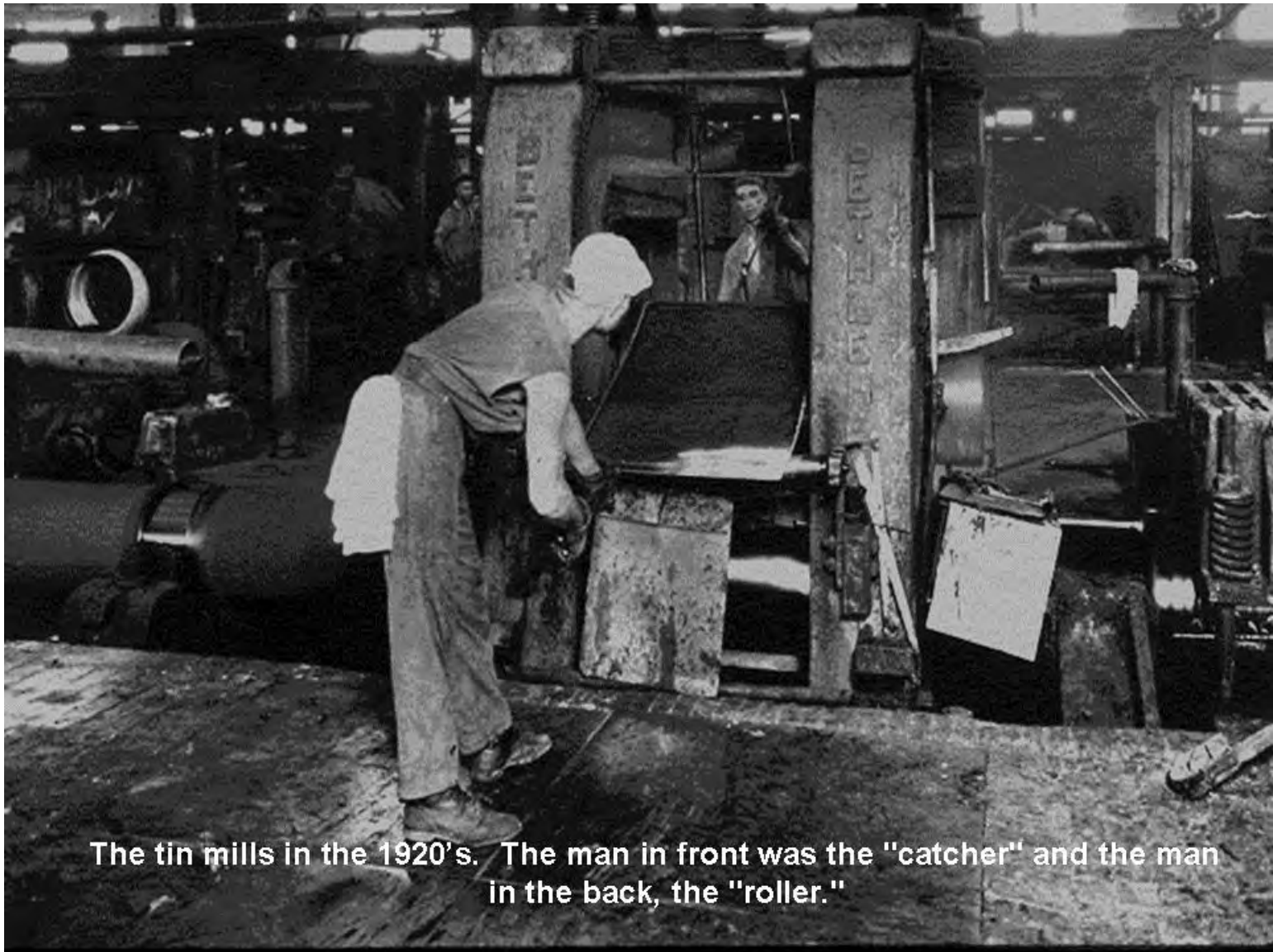


The Point--early 1920's



In the 1920's, the tin mill expanded. “To make tin plate, Bethlehem hauled iron ore 1,200 miles from Cuba, and purchased tin from the Straits Settlements near Singapore, 13,650 miles distant by boat. These raw materials, together with coal from Bethlehem mines in West Virginia and Pennsylvania. . .were dumped into the furnaces . . . and shipped 6,7000 miles from Sparrows Point to Honolulu through the Panama Canal”—Mark Reutter

“The worst contamination in Bear Creek was near the mill's Tin Mill Canal, which was used for decades to discharge water and wastewater into the creek. People who swim in the area face no extra risk, but people who eat a lot of fish and crabs caught there would have an increased cancer risk, according to the report, which was presented at a public meeting in Dundalk Thursday night.” *Baltimore Sun* April 22, 2016



The tin mills in the 1920's. The man in front was the "catcher" and the man in the back, the "roller."



An additional set of 12 hot mills was added in 1920, and a third set of 12, shown here, came on in 1925, making a total of 36. Two years later, in 1927, the addition of 12 more mills brought the total to 48 and the capacity to 4,250,000 base boxes, or 210,000 tons, annually. Two employees (blurred on mill at left) worked each mill — a feeder and a catcher. These mills are marked "Bethlehem."

40 KILLED IN EXPLOSION, LATEST REPORT

PRICE 2 CENTS - PAY NO MORE
EXTRA

THE BALTIMORE NEWS



Oil Tanker Explodes at Sparrows Point

15 DIE IN BLAST

70 Injured In Blow-Up; Victims Rushed Here

Tragedy struck with the hand of death today at the Sparrows Point plant of the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Company, where an explosion on board the Norwegian oil tanker Mantilla killed at least 15 men and injured 70 more. The vessel, in dry dock for repairs, is afire and another of its oil tanks is expected to explode at any moment.

GRILL MAID ON HALL RAZOR

By Associated Press
BALTIMORE, Nov. 20. — A 19-year-old woman who was a waitress at a restaurant here today, was reported to have been injured by a razor blade which fell on her face during the meal.

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How Oil Tanker Looked Following Sparrows Point Blast



The oil tanker Mantilla, which was in dry dock for repairs, is shown in a state of disrepair and fire following the explosion on board today.

TODAY'S SCRAPPERS

By Associated Press
BALTIMORE, Nov. 20. — A 19-year-old woman who was a waitress at a restaurant here today, was reported to have been injured by a razor blade which fell on her face during the meal.

300 in City Football Strike Suspended

By Associated Press
BALTIMORE, Nov. 20. — A 19-year-old woman who was a waitress at a restaurant here today, was reported to have been injured by a razor blade which fell on her face during the meal.

Greg Johnson's Boyin Track Selections

By Associated Press
BALTIMORE, Nov. 20. — A 19-year-old woman who was a waitress at a restaurant here today, was reported to have been injured by a razor blade which fell on her face during the meal.

FABLE IS BEST IN OPENER

By Associated Press
BALTIMORE, Nov. 20. — A 19-year-old woman who was a waitress at a restaurant here today, was reported to have been injured by a razor blade which fell on her face during the meal.

SOME RESULTS

By Associated Press
BALTIMORE, Nov. 20. — A 19-year-old woman who was a waitress at a restaurant here today, was reported to have been injured by a razor blade which fell on her face during the meal.

Volunteer workmen and firemen, risking their lives, are bringing dead and injured from the burning vessel.

All others are being kept away from the burning boat.

The injured are being treated at the emergency hospital at the shipbuilding plant, where all in condition to move after some, wounded and burned, is brought out of the vessel and rushed to the hospital, most of them to die.

Cause of the explosion is unknown. Several of the crew and approximately 20 workmen were on board the boat when it exploded, but a crew boat later was on site, and several nearby buildings and streets and was one of the buildings damaged.

It is reported that the explosion had destroyed the main part of the burning and adjacent buildings, many of them completely burned, the building was being used for the storage of materials.

The vessel was in dry dock for repairs, and was one of the largest vessels in the harbor.

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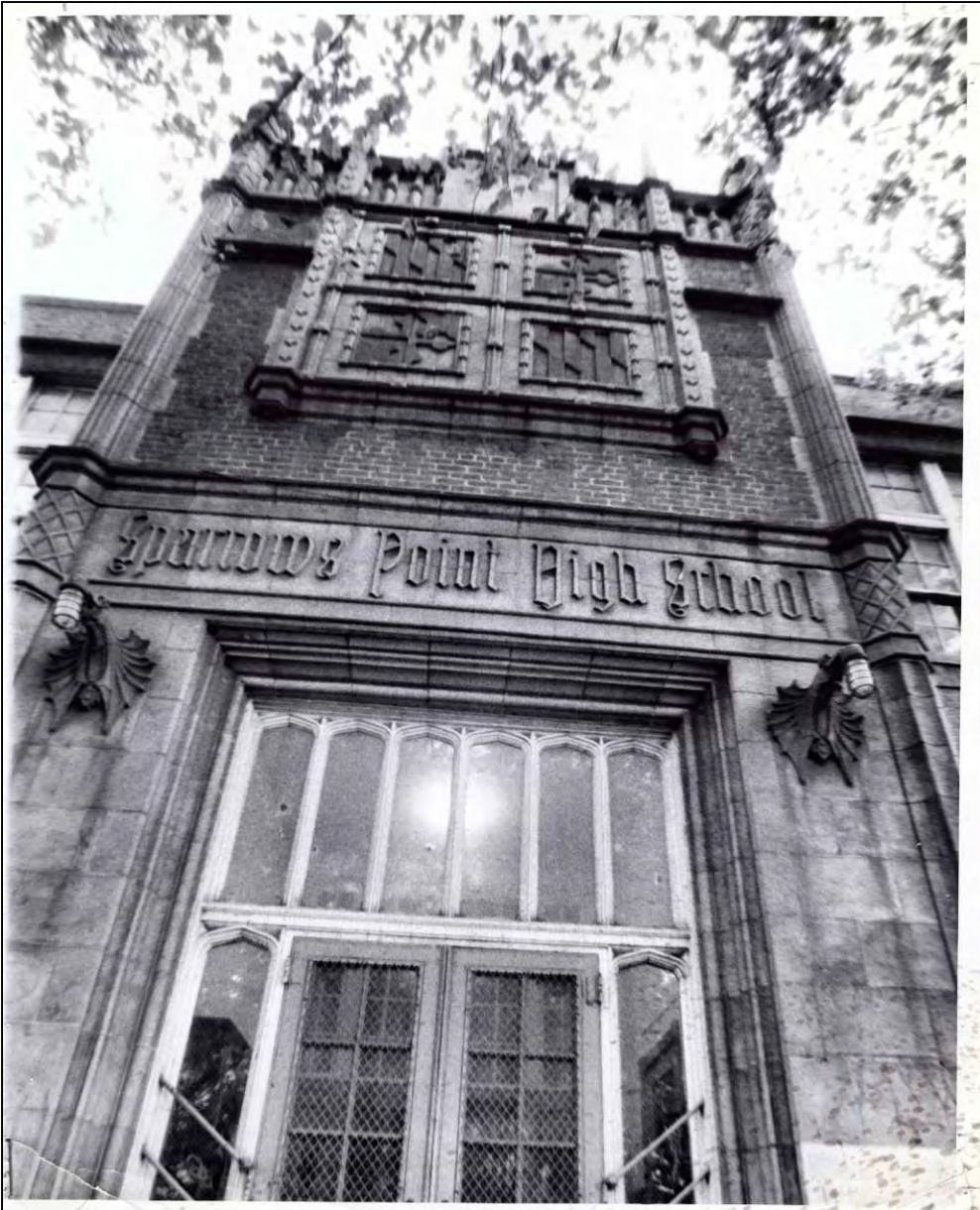
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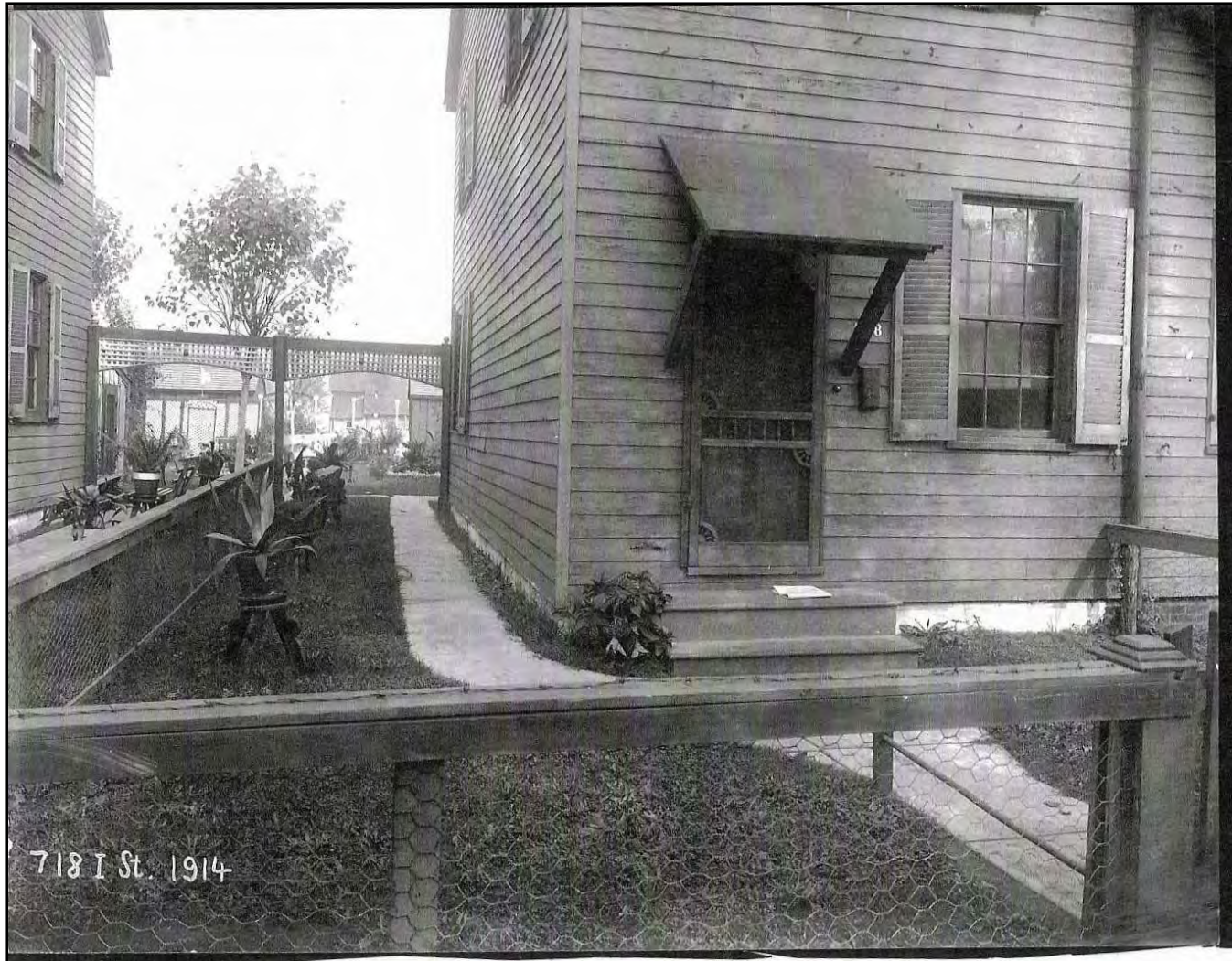
November 20, 1926
Courtesy Bill Goodman



Courtesy of Al Westra



Sparrows Point High School opened in 1908, as the Board of Education decided to furnish one teacher for the first year of high school in return for, "free heat and janitor service for the schools of Sparrows Point." Of the high schools presently operating within the modern-day boundaries of Baltimore County, Sparrows Point High School is the 5th oldest.



The Bungalows (1914)

Courtesy Archie Thompson



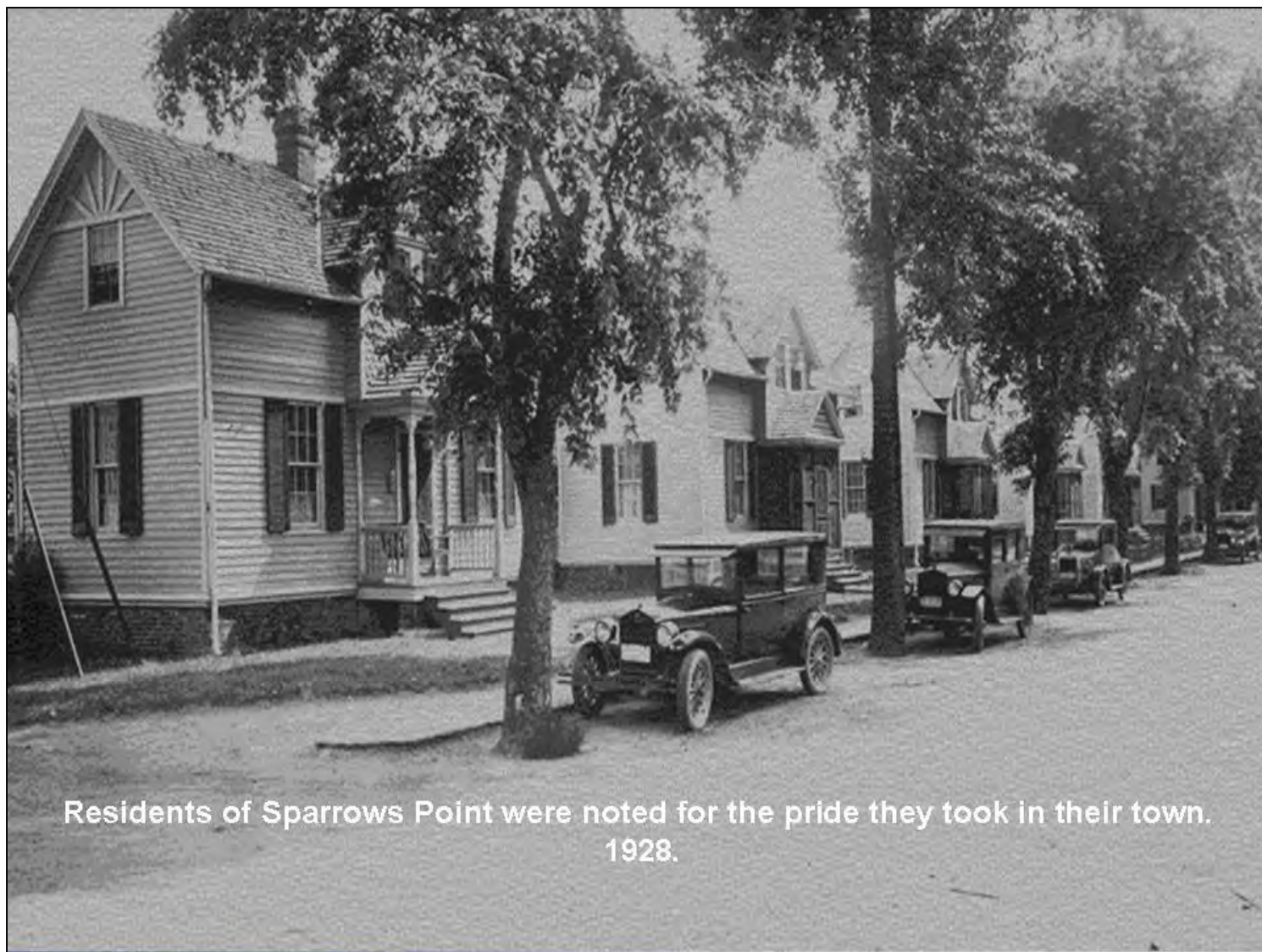
822 J St. 1914

Photo courtesy of Archie Thompson--1914

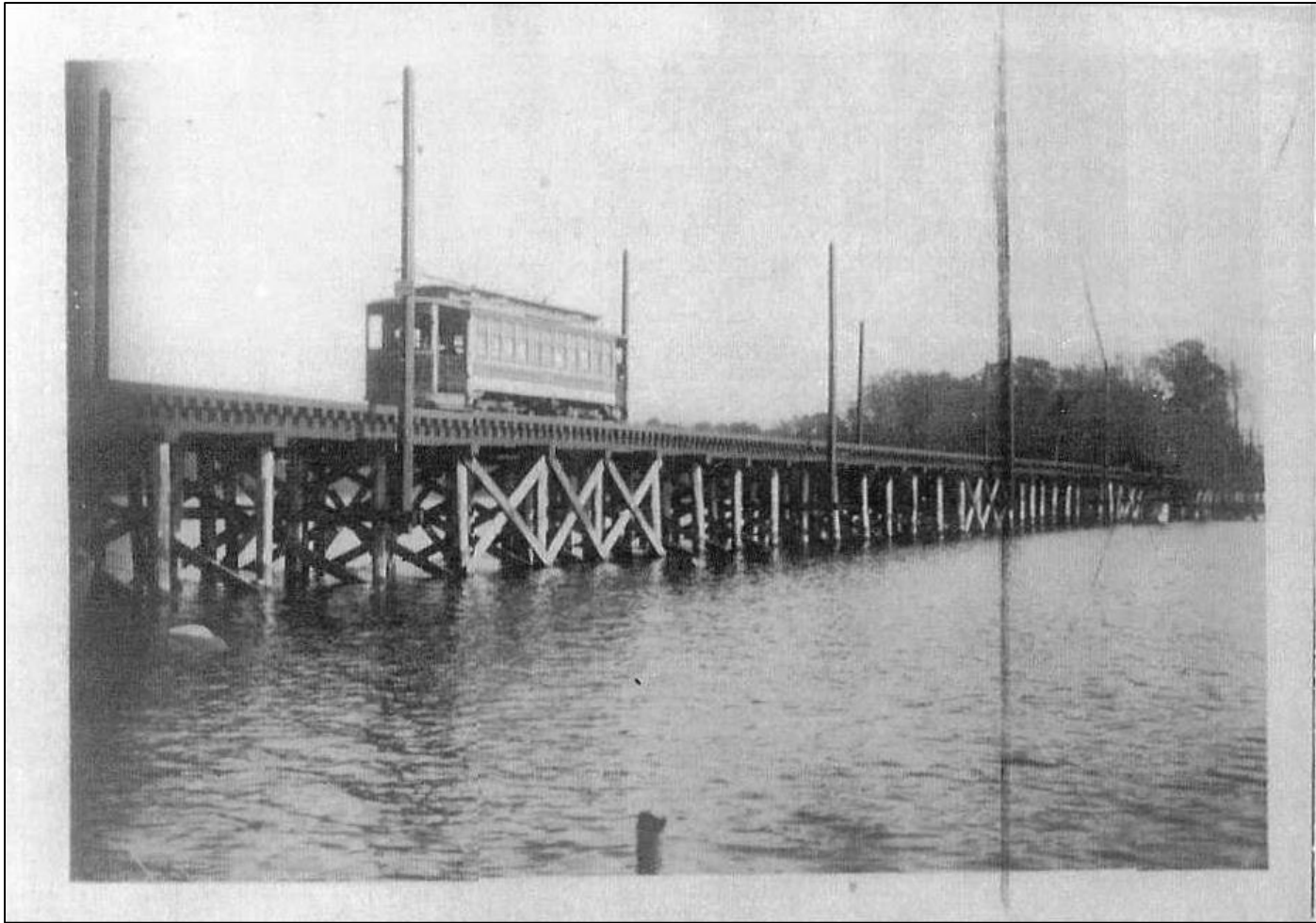


Bragg Elementary School on Sparrows Point as it looked in 1915. The school was built by Bethlehem Steel Mill for the African-American children of Sparrows Point and areas surrounding Sparrows Point, such as Edgemere and Turner Station.

--Photo courtesy of Louis Diggs



Residents of Sparrows Point were noted for the pride they took in their town.
1928.



Bear Creek Bridge



[Kj Hopkins](#) I remember in Baltimore City visiting my Grandparents at Christmas, and the kids would have on their new roller street skates (steel) and hang on the side of the streetcars and be pulled down the street.

[Sandra Chapel](#) This was in the fifties cause I used to ride on it with my mom

[Rodger Fisher](#) at low tide you can still see the piling in the water



110
Quitting time! - Loading the #26 street cars (known as the "Red Rockets"). Sparrows Point - date uncertain. SHIPYARD "LOOP"



“Two of my personal heroes, my Grandfather Jack Nelson,(holding the lunchbox) and his brother, my Great-Uncle Norman Nelson, in Sparrows Point, MD near the Bethlehem Steel Plant in 1929. My legacy to the Steelworkers began with them.”

--Mike Lewis (February, 2016)



“November 21, 1955; This is the 200 block of “E” Street. In 1956 Bethlehem Steel tore down the 2, 3 and 4 hundred blocks of C thru F streets to make room for the No. 4 Open Hearth. The remainder of the town survived until 1972 when they demolished the entire town to make room for the massive “L” blast furnace.”

Photo courtesy of Roslyn Stockett



But, by 1974, homes had been bulldozed down and the town was no more.
The housing as cleared away to make way for "L" blast furnace.

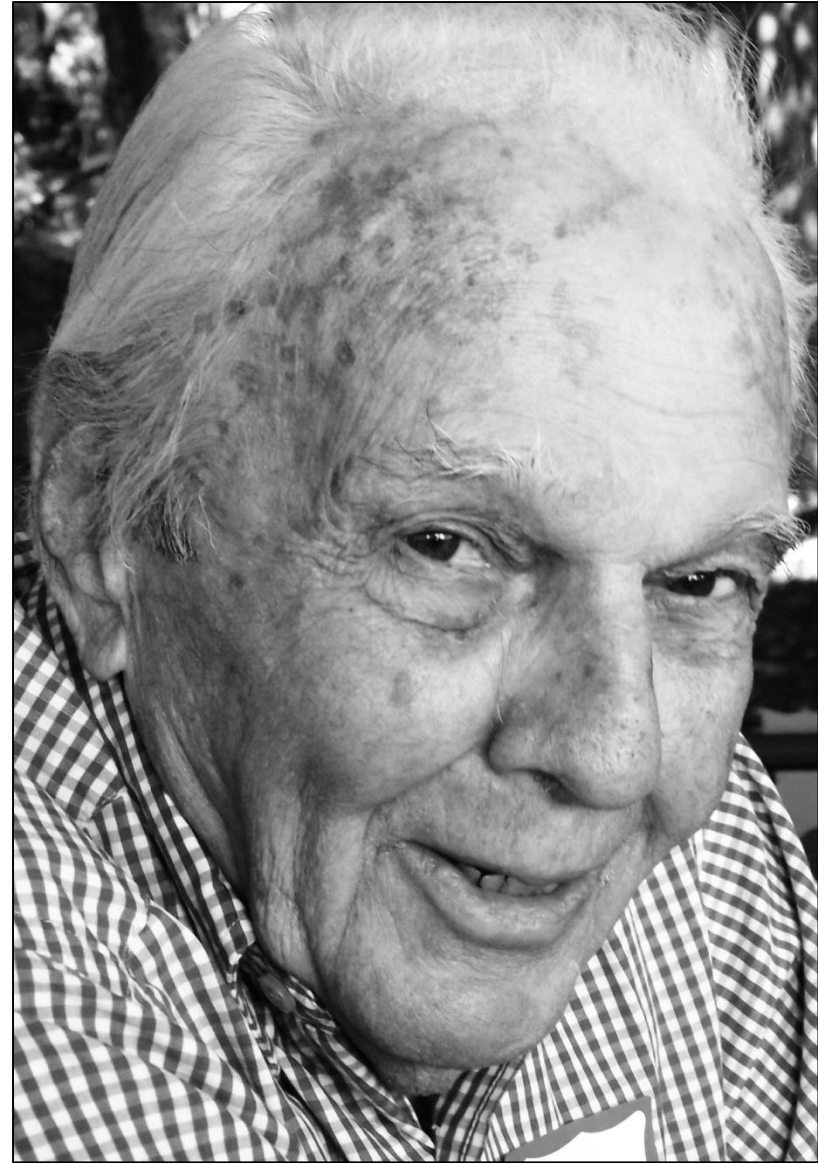


One of the longstanding businesses in The town of Sparrows Point was Caplan's Department Store.



Photo by Kim Hairston—Baltimore Sun

The reunion of the residents of the town of Sparrows Point, organized by Elmer Hall, became very popular. The last one was in August, 2012, at North Point State Park.





Jim Vadas, owner of Mickeys

Daryl Eldrett Watkins *to* I Grew Up in Sparrows Point, Md

Cypress Gardens, FL · December 24, 2015

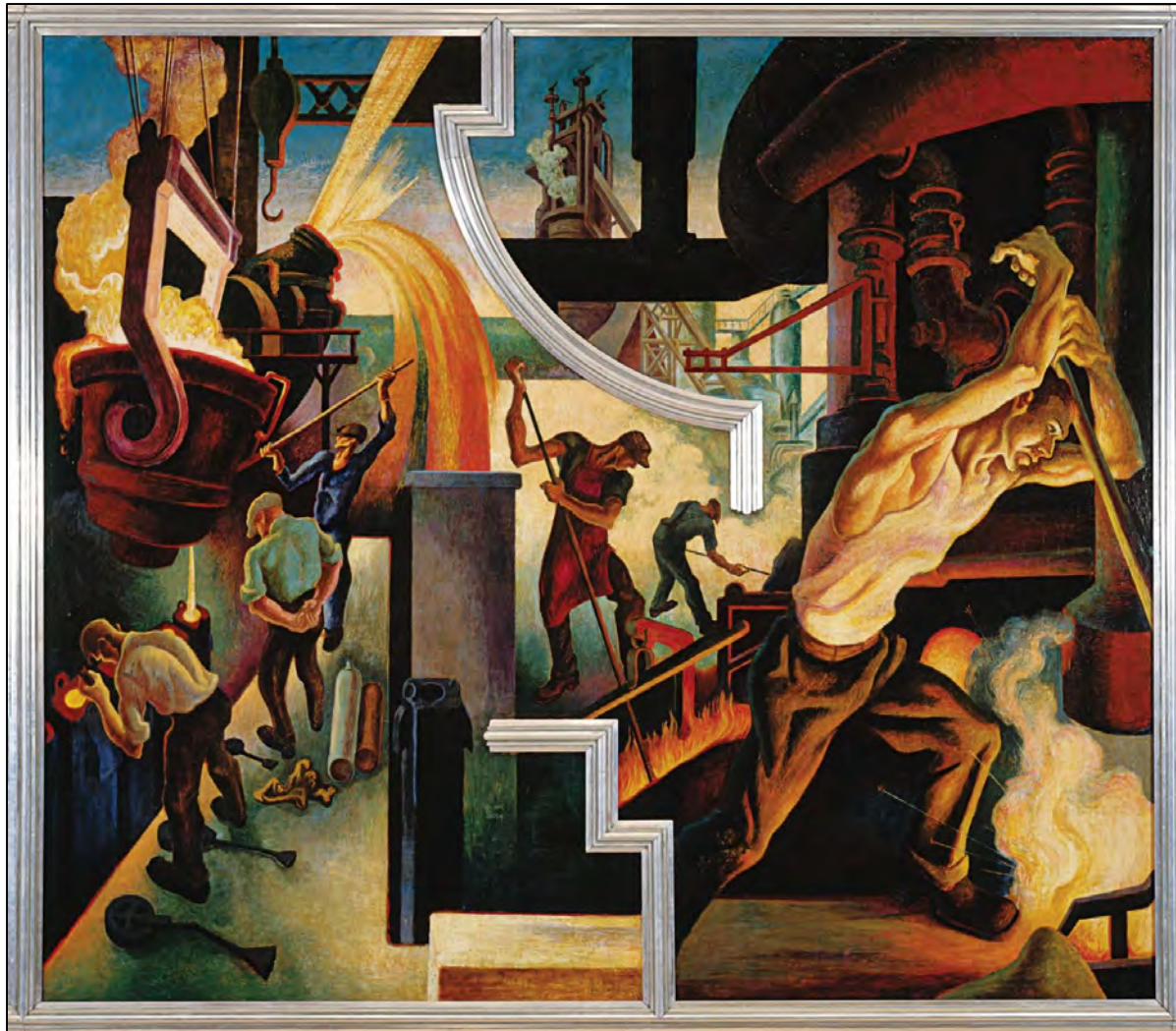
So sad. I was wearing my Sparrows Point t-shirt in Key West yesterday and walked in to a shop. A very young sales clerk squealed. " I used to live in Dundalk!" We started talking and I was saying how sad it was that the town no longer existed. She thought I was talking about the mill and had NO IDEA that there had ever been a town there. I almost cried at the thought that not only had our hometown disappeared but that its memory is fading as well. So thankful to all who are striving to preserve our history.

Jane Hugunin Kay Too young to remember!!!

Charlie Hand Well you see, Jane, there was once a great steel mill and in the midst of the steel mill, a town, which was called Sparr... Oh, you were talking about the new principal being too young.

Debby Meyer-Gamble the people I am speaking about (the school administrators) aren't from the area and have no clue of our past. Sad for our school environment. It's not their fault, they are new and young, it's just sad for the history of our area to get lost through the ages.

Jac E. Knust Sad. I am constantly baffled by the lack of knowledge of many younger people about history in general. How can you appreciate life without a knowledge of history? I will always get "The Point" . Spares Point. Where Bedlum Steel Comney was.



“All that was romantic and aspiring in the American spirit found its expression in steel.” (*Instruments of Power from America Today*, 1930–31)
Thomas Hart Benton



Charles M. Schwab, chairman of the board of the Bethlehem Steel Corp., shown when he arrived in New York City on March 28, 1935, aboard the Rex. The company became the largest independent steel company in the world and developed the H-beam.

"I've thought the whole thing over, and if we are going bust, we will go bust big."

<http://flashbak.com/>



BETHLEHEM
STEEL



Bethlehem Steel, Sparrows Point December 22nd, 1937

--Photo courtesy of Mike Elliott

[Vincent Golczynski](#) i remember that place and working there in 78 to 83 in the slab yard
[Peachy Dixon](#) my dad and many of my uncles worked there as did my brother

OVENS AND COAL HANDLING SECTIONS
MARYLAND PLANT

- This Company maintains a Safety Organization for the purpose of preventing injuries to employees.
- Every employee is considered a member of the Safety Organization.
- Safety instructions and rules must be obeyed.
- Safety devices installed must be used.
- Safety guards, removed for repairs or adjustment must be replaced before machine is started.
- Unsafe conditions or practices are to be reported to the foreman.
- The Company maintains an emergency hospital for gratuitous treatment of injured employees.
- All injuries, no matter how slight, must receive immediate attention.
- Good conduct is expected—horse-play or fooling will not be tolerated.
- Failure to comply with Safety Rules and Regulations may mean immediate discipline.

SAFETY DEPARTMENT

OVENS AND COAL HANDLING
SECTION

MARYLAND PLANT
BETHLEHEM STEEL COMPANY



Department Safety Code

Employees must be guided by these Rules in Department Operations. Any Employee violating any Rule under this Safety Code will be subject to discipline

BE SURE IT IS
SAFE

DON'T TAKE A
CHANCE

This Code Effective Upon Receipt

1939



Early picture, probably in the 1920's, showing women inspecting tin plate in the assorting room. (They were known as "tin-floppers"). Management insisted only women could perform this task, (men were to "heavy-handed"). The only men permitted in the assorting room were the "reckoners" who counted out 112 sheets of inspected tin plate and packaged them for shipment.



The Tin Room where the “tin floppers,” 200 per shift, worked, checking each sheet of tin plate for defects by “flopping” it over during World War II.



Mother of Tony Saladino, with Mrs. Elizabeth Alexander, the forelady in the Tin Room, who staged theatricals with her “girls”—the “tin floppers.”

Photo courtesy of Tony Saladino



Members of the Employee Representation Plan, the company union in 1928. The ERP was established to block unionism.



Secretary of Labor Francis Perkins toured Sparrows Point on July 29, 1933, in support of the NIRA. As wages declined to 26% of value added, Perkins asked: “Would it not be equally wise and just to make some of these reserves available for employees who must be laid off from time to time to stimulate purchasing power?”

**A SIGNED CONTRACT WITH BETHLEHEM STEEL
IS YOURS FOR THE ASKING—**



**VOTE FOR THE SWOC
IN THE LABOR BOARD ELECTION**

Steel Workers Attention!

“The Company Union Is Illegal!”

Such is the advice of the Company Union Lawyer to Employee Representatives of the United States Steel Corporation. At last the Bastard Monster which has no place in civilized America is declared officially Dead by its makers.

**The Steel Workers' Union Drive
Has Killed the Company Union
Now What?**

The Forward March of Industrial Union for
Steel Workers' Economic Security is on
No Power in America Can Stop It

Just as sure as Old Glory is the Flag of the Land just that sure the
Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers of North
America is the only Union of and for Steel Workers in the Country.

**JOIN THIS UNION
JOIN THE FORWARD MARCH**

— STEEL WORKERS' ORGANIZING COMMITTEE



Under pressure from the National Defense Commission, and seeing strikes at Lackawanna and Johnstown, and a one-shift walkout at The Point, Bethlehem Steel agreed to a union election on September 25, 1941. With almost 90% of the workers voting, the results were: SWOC 10,813 votes; the “independent association” 4,198 votes and “no union” 713 votes.



ELECTION



VICTORY ASSURED

Now is the time to sign that Union card and pay your dues

JOIN your thousands of fellow Steel Workers in the Sparrows Point plant by being a member-in-good-standing. Your membership in the Union assures a Union vote on ELECTION DAY

Sept. 25th, 1941

100% Union Means 100% Contract

**Steel Workers Organizing Committee
C. I. O.**

OFFICES

32 Dundalk Ave. 3600 Eastern Ave. 712 N. Bond St.

Vote SWOC-CIO - Sept. 25th VOTE SWOC-CIO-Sept. 25th

Vote SWOC-CIO - Sept. 25th VOTE SWOC-CIO-Sept. 25th

VOTE SWOC-CIO - Sept. 25th VOTE SWOC-CIO - Sept. 25th

Complete Report On All Grievances Filed in the Open Hearth
And Bessemer (BO) Department from Jan. 1, 1944 to June II, 1945
Michael Howard—Zone 2 Committeeman

WC Dunston (30 266) Ladle Liner B (iron ladles) Filed on 1/4/44, by Shop Steward
Edw. W, Bishop

Brief Statement of grievance: "Men with less seniority have by-passed me and were given Ladle Liner A jobs. I want to be placed on an "A" job in accordance with my seniority,"

Final Disposition: Settled satisfactorily on 4/22/44 and Dunston given "A" rating*

Grievance #465-312

C.A. Lane electrician

Filed on 4/12/44 by Shop Steward M. W. Adams

Brief Statement of Grievance. "I request that cooled drinking water be made available in the open hearth at least during warm weather."

Final Disposition: As a result of 2nd step discussion, all water lines were re-wrapped and re-insulated. We did not consider this a satisfactory settlement of the grievance, and it was appealed to the 3rd step, where the management stated that a "health hazard" was involved and so referred it to the medical dept. where it is still pigeonholed.



1942-- At Sparrows Point, workers celebrate triple launching.
Photograph by A. Aubrey Bodine.



Stewart Cort displays the prestigious Army-Navy "E" production award. The plant met its goal less than a year after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

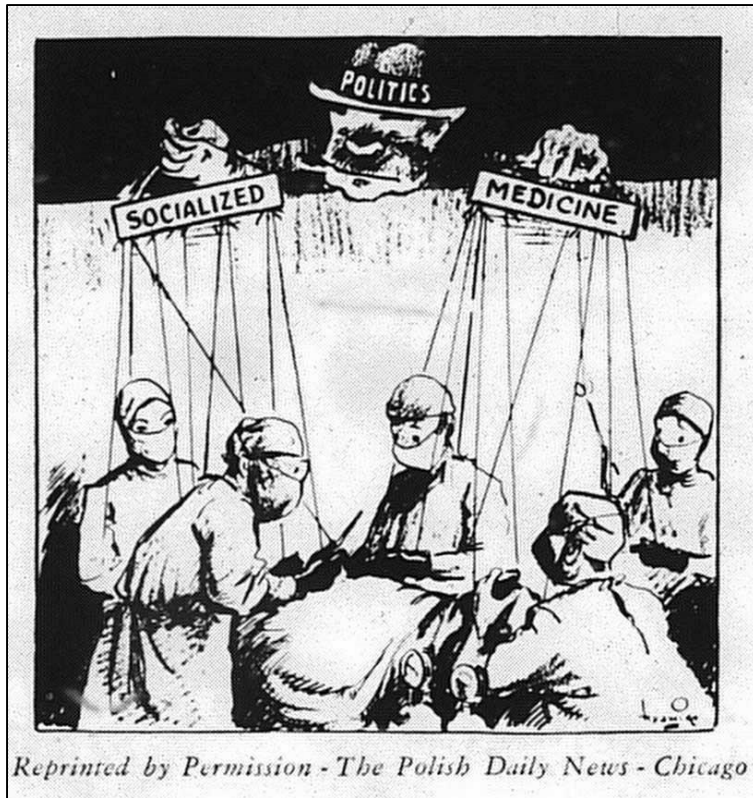
During the course of World War II, military strategies—and military procurement—dramatically changed.



Made of steel



Made of aluminum



On November 19, 1945, President Truman proposed a new national health care program. His proposals came to Congress in the form of a Social Security expansion bill, co-sponsored in Congress by Senators Robert Wagner (D-NY) and James Murray (D-MT), along with Representative John Dingell (D-MI). For this reason, the bill was known popularly as the W-M-D bill. The American Medical Association (AMA) launched a spirited attack against the bill, capitalizing on fears of Communism in the public mind. The AMA characterized the bill as "socialized

medicine", and in a forerunner to the rhetoric of the McCarthy era, called Truman White House staffers "followers of the Moscow party line." When conservatives gained in the 1946 election, the issue died.

When Bethlehem Steel declared bankruptcy in September, 2001, its annual cost for health care for retirees was \$3 billion.



Last steam locomotive on the
Patapsco & Back Rivers R. R.
Sparrows Point, Md.
Last day-----May 29, 1947

Courtesy Bill McLyman



“This incredible photograph shows the Bessemer process in progress. The Bessemer process was the first inexpensive industrial process for the mass-production of steel from molten pig iron. Patented in 1855, the process was named after its inventor, Henry Bessemer.”

photo by A. Aubrey Bodine-1949
courtesy Maryland Historical
Society.



October 10, 1951 – A worker in the blast furnace at Sparrows Point
(Robert F. Kniesche/Baltimore Sun)



Workers on strike pick up checks at Sparrows Point during the national steel strike that began October 1, 1949, involving 500,000 workers. The issues were getting the Company to fully pay for pensions and health insurance. The two sides were described in the *New York Times* as “so adamant yet so affable.”

--Photo courtesy of Tom Trego

BETHLEHEM STEEL CO.

SPARROWS PT. PLANT

JUNE 10 SCORE BOARD

**24 TH.
ANNUAL
FIRST AID
MEET**

TEAM NO.	DEPARTMENT	PROBLEM SCORES				AVERAGE	PLACE
		1	2	3	4		
1	COKE OVENS	96	81	95	97.5	92.38	9
2	BLAST FURNACE	97	80	93	95	91.25	12
3	OPEN HEARTH NO.1	97	81	95	99	93.00	8
4	OPEN HEARTH NO.2	95	88	91	88	90.50	14
5	BLOOM MILL	96	75	93	96	90.00	16
6	PLATE MILLS	97	85	96	98.5	94.13	4
7	SHEET MILL	100	100	98	100	99.50	1
8	TIN MILL	92	84	98	99	93.25	6
9	SHEET, TIN, STRIP, MECH.	98	81	93	96.5	92.13	10
10	SHEET, TIN, STRIP, GEN.	93	82	93	86	88.50	21
11	COLD STRIP	86	82	94	94	89.00	20
12	HOT STRIP	94	88	96	94.5	93.13	7
13	ROD & WIRE NO.1	95	84	98	99	94.00	5
14	ROD & WIRE NO.2	92	85	92	91	90.00	16
15	PIPE MILL	98	72	94	94	89.50	19
16	FUEL & STEAM	96	79	93	96	91.00	13
17	MECH. MAINTENANCE	99	92	98	96	96.25	2
18	MECHANICAL SHOPS NO.1	95	74	84	92	86.25	22
19	MECHANICAL SHOPS NO.2	100	75	95	96.5	91.63	11
20	GENERAL MECHANICAL	98	79	88	95	90.00	16
21	ELECTRICAL	96	74	98	94	90.50	14
22	METALLURGICAL	97	83	100	97	94.25	3

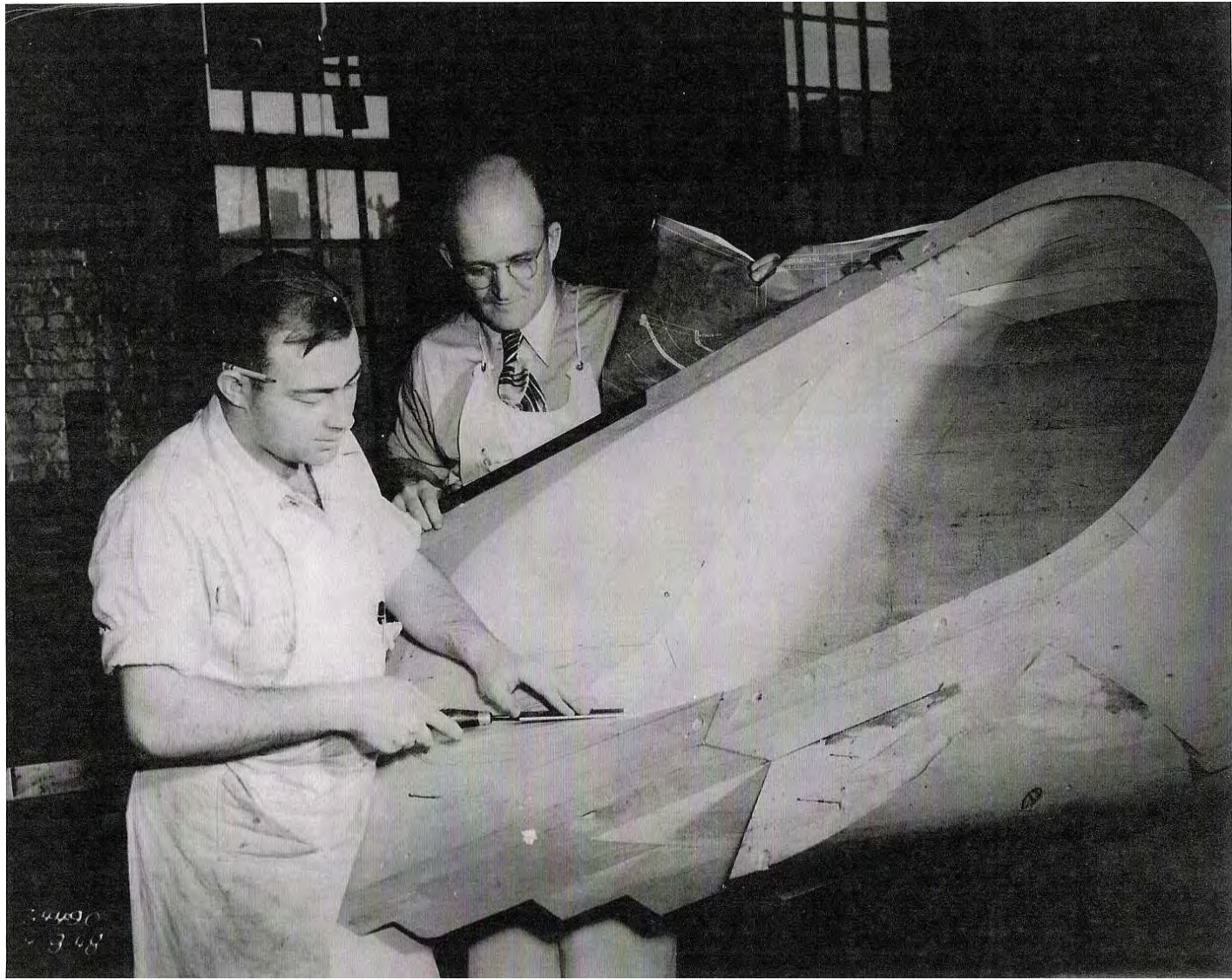
37258 6-10-50



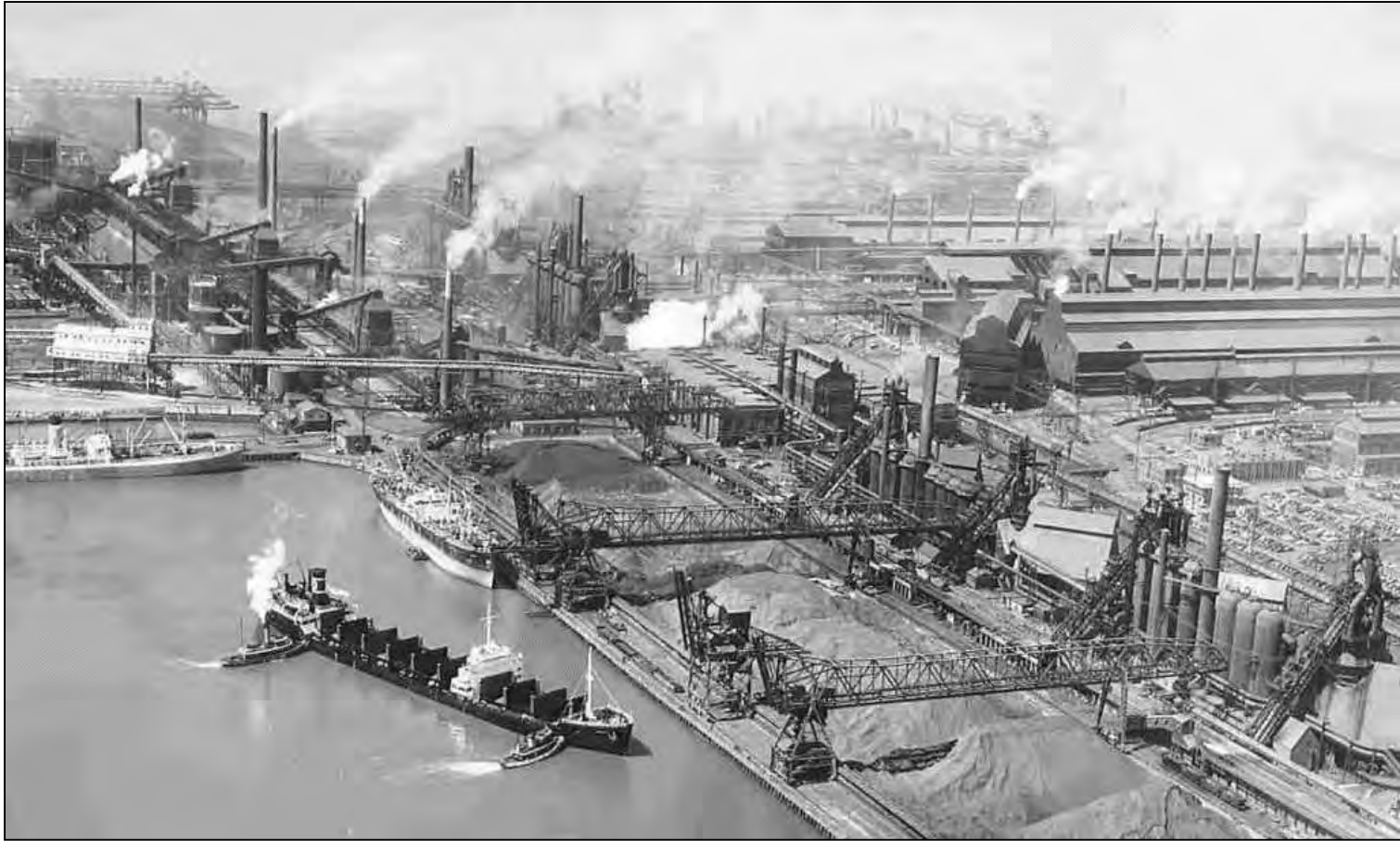
Workers in the pipe mill-1952

The pipe mill opened in the 1940's, closed in the 1980's and was demolished in 1998.

The site in 2015 is heavily contaminated with arsenic, iron, manganese and vanadium and “Exposure to large quantities of these metals can be toxic, according to a survey conducted for the EPA and MSDE in anticipation of new construction (possibly by FedEx) on the location



The Pattern Shop

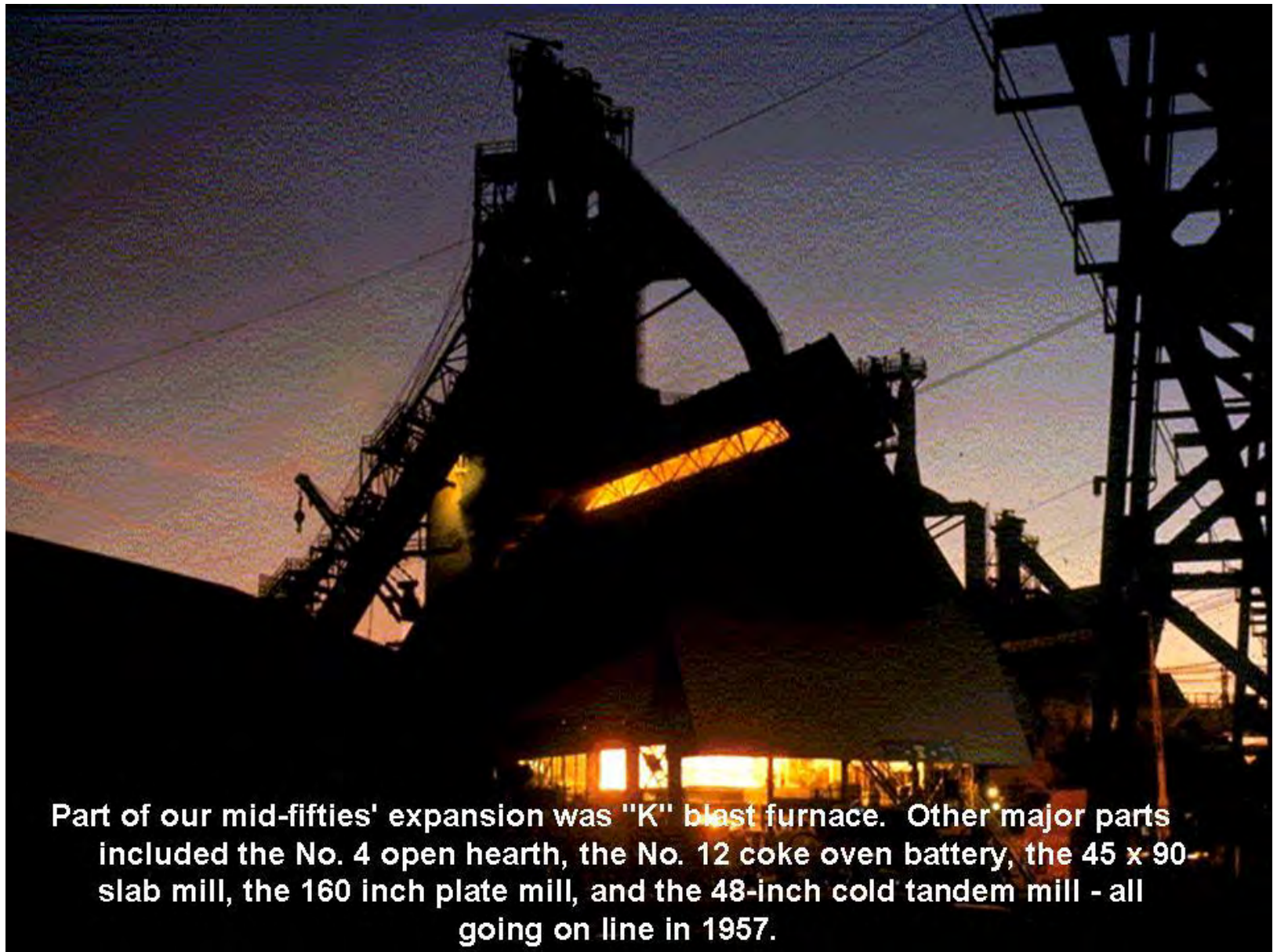


Sparrows Point in 1953

Photo courtesy of Mark Reutter



Courtesy of Bob Mulkey



Part of our mid-fifties' expansion was "K" blast furnace. Other major parts included the No. 4 open hearth, the No. 12 coke oven battery, the 45 x 90 slab mill, the 160 inch plate mill, and the 48-inch cold tandem mill - all going on line in 1957.

In 1959, employment reached its peak of 33,000

On July 3, 1959, a national steel strike began.

HOME **SUNDAY NEWS** 5 CENTS
NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER
New York, Sunday, July 5, 1959

150,000 SET FOR STEEL STRIKE

Story on Page 8



Held as Killer

She, Norma White, 35, (above) was in Buffalo, N. Y., when she shot and killed a killer of her brother, Edward, there.



Zep Rope Fouled?

Some blamed the rope, others the pilot, who blamed the rope fouled, others the pilot, who blamed the rope.



Lucky Baby Escapes Death

Applause rang as the baby, struck and crushed in baby carriage accident, leaving 2-year-old, Barbara, father in the hospital on West End Ave., and mother, Mrs. ...

York Times. LATE CITY EDITION
THURSDAY, JULY 2, 1959

STEEL STRIKE BEGINS, MILLS SHUT; LENGTHY WALKOUT IS PREDICTED; TALKS SET ON PRESIDENT'S PLEA

By ...



REGULATORS TO MEET ...

1959 national steel strike—116 days

WEATHER
Light rain, 65 to 70. Wind light, west at 5 to 10. Foggy at times.

THE LORAIN JOURNAL

And The Lorain Times-Herald

FINAL EDITION

VOL. 71, No. 90

TELEPHONE 3-1111

TELEPHONE 3-1111

TELEPHONE 3-1111

TELEPHONE 3-1111

STEEL MILLS CLOSED TIGHTLY

Military Planes In 4 Crashes

14 Thought Dead; Seven Chute Safely

Three air crashes in the United States and one in Britain were reported by the military information service of both countries today.

One Carrier Tied Up As Mills Close

Black River Traffic Hindered, Ship Went To Other Ports

PIO Officers Confer With City Officials

Local Businessmen Agree To Support Strike

Chest Union Takes Shape

Division of Corporate Gifts Given to Action

Students To Be Polled

China Guns Hold Yanks

Americans on Ship Face Death Threat

Rail Compromise May Halt Strike

12,000 Idled in Lorain; Picket Lines at Gates

Police Barracks Raided

That Wasn't Haze, Smoke

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Man, Wife Stricken Together

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BROWN BARS CHESSMAN CLEMENCY

Time Telephone Numbers: **MAJOR 8447** (Lorain) **MAJOR 5283** (City) **MAJOR 4173** (Lorain)

Los Angeles Times

ESTABLISHED 1881

TUESDAY **FINAL**

VOL. LXVIII IN FOUR PARTS TUESDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 20, 1959 75 PAGES DAILY 15c

HE ASKS INJUNCTION TO HALT STEEL STRIKE

Supreme Court Approves Chavez Dodger Park

FINAL NEWS

STANFORD OUTLAW HAZING

STANFORD, Oct. 20 (Tuesday) AP—Stanford University's intercollegiate council last night outlawed hazing, George Ferguson, council president, said "We have with the passing of this resolution the best hope of eradicating the ugly, lawless incidents which have plagued our other campuses will be avoided at Stanford."

FRANTIC EFFORT TO SAVE STRIPPED MEN

BELLEVILLE, N.Y., Oct. 20 (Tuesday) AP—Zookeepers here today through the night in a frantic effort to save two men who had been stripped of their clothes by a bear in a cage at the zoo.

BLAST ROCKS IN STEEL CENTER

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Oct. 20 (Tuesday) AP—An explosion in the steel center of the Woodward Iron Works struck workers and ended early today, Jefferson County sheriff's deputies reported.

RUSS JAM LANGELLE BROADCASTS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20 (Tuesday) AP—Eighteen Moscow radio stations reported today the Russian government had turned on their radio jamming against the Voice of America's broadcasts of the Langelle affair.

LAOS FIGHT-FINDER LEADS

TORNO, Oct. 20 (Tuesday) AP—Sinhalese Buddhists, members of the U.N. peacekeeping force in Laos, set off a fight for the night for the first time since the invasion of Laos by Communist forces.

FINNISH MICHIGO 23 TODAY

TORNO, Oct. 20 (Tuesday) AP—Crown Prince Mikko of Finland celebrated his 23rd birthday today. The crown prince will visit Finland in the next few days to meet with his father, President Nivala.

12,000 Idled in Lorain; Picket Lines at Gates

The majority of 12,000 striking Lorain workers are idled today because of the steel strike. The workers are idled at the gates of the Lorain Steel Mills.

Rulings Dissolve Hurdles

By CARLTON WILLIAMS

The last legal obstacles to the passage of a steelworkers' contract with the steel industry today were dissolved by a ruling of the Supreme Court.

Union Set to Fight

Washington, Oct. 20 (Tuesday) AP—The steelworkers' union today set to fight a Supreme Court decision that would allow the steel industry to sue the union for damages.

Gov. Brown Refuses Chessman Clemency

San Francisco, Oct. 20 (Tuesday) AP—Gov. Brown today refused to grant clemency to a man convicted of the slaying of a woman.

That Wasn't Haze, Smoke

San Francisco, Oct. 20 (Tuesday) AP—The "haze" that was reported in San Francisco today was not smoke or haze, but a large amount of steam.

THE WEATHER

Light rain, 65 to 70. Wind light, west at 5 to 10. Foggy at times.

Union Set to Fight

Write Request Today but 'Will Obey Law'

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SAKIS STILL KEERS PACT

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RENOUCES U.S.—Robert Edward Wilson, 30, formerly of Cleveland, has announced American citizenship in Mexico.

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Crews Virtually Contain U.S. Exhibit

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20 (Tuesday) AP—The U.S. exhibit at the World's Fair in London today was virtually contained by British police.

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Returning to work at The Point after the 1959 strike

http://wn.com/steel_strike

Glenda Jean Lawrenson I remember standing in line for bread, dry milk, cheese, etc. and my dad doing menial jobs to support us. Good life lessons.

Elaine Acevedo And eating deer, meal after meal, to make ends meet. I won't eat it now.

Robert Walton I remember the blocks of cheese, the oatmeal and the margarine. it got us through the strike.

Debby Meyer-Gamble Glenda, as soon as I read John's post, I thought of us going to the Union Hall behind the building to get food. Remember the dry milk and cereal?

John Barry Yep: my dad still went to work daily, but he was in the engineering office in the shipyard. I can still remember seeing the pickets around trash barrel fires at the various gates, and remember how odd it was not to hear the usual sounds, see the smoke from the stacks, and especially not see the brilliant orange light at night when ingots were getting poured (I lived at 510 D Street then).

THOU SHALT NOT
SCAB

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(1-800-844-3739)
www.tigereydesign.com

UNION
USWA
LABOR

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First beer in cans goes on sale January 24, 1935





“Drink soda from steel cans”

The steel and can industries contributed to the growth of canned soda pop with a \$ 9-million campaign to promote the steel beverage can. Soon after canned soda pop had held about 13 percent of the market in 1965.

www.StrangeCosmos.com

Old hard way

New Schlitz way

Some day all beer cans will open this easy!

Now only Schlitz brings you—coast to coast—the world's easiest opening beer can! The new aluminum Softop can! **real gusto—real easy!**

The Beer that made Milwaukee Famous... simply because it tastes so good.

Aluminum was used for beverage cans since as early as 1960, first for frozen juice concentrate. As early as 1961, Reynolds Metals Co., now part of Alcoa Inc., had a study showing that the public preferred aluminum cans over tin plated steel cans and soon made inroads into the marketplace with its easy-open aluminum can lids. This speeded the development and commercial use of aluminum cans for the beer and soft drink markets.

By 1963 12-ounce aluminum beverage cans were beginning to be produced in larger quantities and in 1967 that volume swelled considerably when Coca Cola and Pepsi converted to aluminum cans.

I am a 14 year old girl and I would like the information on why plastic is replacing metal in the production of cars. I would like to know the answer to this or any information on the subject for my chemistry homework can not find an answer. I would be very grateful if anybody could shed some light on this situation for me.

Thank-you. Leah

Simple answer, money and weight. Most plastic is cheaper than most metal and weighs a lot less (better fuel economy). Plastic can be injection molded, vacuum molded, cast and generally machined or "worked" faster and cheaper than metal. Something like a small gear can be made out of a suitable plastic for about 1% of the cost of a machined metal one and half to 2 thirds of a cast metal one. James Watts

But there's another reason, especially for winter cold areas where the roads are salted, and that is the corrosion resistance of ALL plastics is pretty d. good! Metals are all prone to some type of reducing or oxidizing attack, heck, it would be very expensive to use any super metals and it is bad enough, chemically speaking, to use, say, stainless bolts into mild steel frames where you have wet and salty conditions. Your chemistry teacher will gladly explain why, I'm sure. Hence plastics will not cause galvanic attack. Freeman Newton

Plastic enables complex design. Welded metal components may need 4-5 pieces of child parts to be welded together. By using plastic moulding process, complex products can be produced in one-shot. Sometime, metal parts design limited to stamping capability. For example, thick stamping part may need a very expensive machine and tooling to produce. By using plastic, some of this problem can be solved and more complex and sophisticated product outlook can be designed.

Kwang Horng

“As landfills overflow with discarded plastics, scientists have been working to produce a biodegradable alternative that will reduce pollution. Now a Tel Aviv University researcher is giving the quest for environmentally friendly plastics an entirely new dimension — by making them tougher than ever before. Prof. Moshe Kol of TAU's School of Chemistry is developing a super-strength polypropylene — one of the world's most commonly used plastics — that has the potential to replace steel and other materials used in everyday products. This could have a long-term impact on many industries, including car manufacturing, in which plastic parts could replace metallic car parts. Durable plastics consume less energy during the production process, explains Prof. Kol. And there are additional benefits as well. If polypropylene car parts replaced traditional steel, cars would be lighter overall and consume less fuel, for example. And because the material is cheap, plastic could provide a much more affordable manufacturing alternative.” June, 2012.





1958
from Kevin
Nozeika

**This shipload of iron ore is just one day's supply
for the nation's largest steel plant**

At our own deepwater docks Bethlehem's Sparrows Point Plant receives huge quantities of iron ore, coal and other materials. And from its strategic tidewater location just southeast of Baltimore, steel flows to the Eastern Seaboard, and to Gulf, Pacific, and overseas ports.

This plant has an annual capacity of 8,200,000 tons of steel ingots. That's sufficient steel to make more than 2½ million automobiles and enough left over for millions of such useful products as refrigerators, kitchen ranges, and air conditioners.

BETHLEHEM STEEL



Executive Order 8802—June 24, 1941

Prohibited race discrimination in defense industries

NEGRO AMERICA I
There's A Job For You Now . . .

We're tired of a lot of talk with no action to back it up, this is what we're going to do about it!

**JOIN IN THE
March On Washington For
Jobs and Equal Participation
In National Defense
JULY 1st**

This means your safety . . . your right to earn a decent living.
This is a crusade for the whole of Negro America with thousands of others you will march through the doors of the nation's capital. You will take part in the huge mass meeting at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial. Years will be a part of the work of Negro America lived in unwavering protest against unfair discrimination against one-third of the nation's population. That's all!

**No One Will Do It For Us
We Have To Help Ourselves!**

WE WILL MARCH . . .

On July 1, Black Americans coming from all parts of the country — will march from the Nation's Capitol down Constitution Avenue, past the White House and the War Department to the Lincoln Memorial where President Roosevelt has been asked to answer the eight-year protest ever made by a loyal minority group.

The march will be a silent, dignified, determined challenge to the democracy for which we have fought through the centuries. All Negroes will march! Laborers, Democrats, Mechanics, Professionals will join together this America and the world may have not had a solemn and resounding

**FIGHT FOR
REAL DEMOCRACY!**

**JOIN NEGRO MARCH
FOR
JOBS and JUSTICE**



EXECUTIVE ORDER 8802

**FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE
IN DEFENSE INDUSTRIES**

..... I do hereby confirm the policy of the United States that there shall be no discrimination in the employment of workers in defense industries or Government because of race, creed, color, or national origin, and I do hereby declare that it is the duty of employers and of labor organizations, in furtherance of said policy and of this order, to provide for the full and equitable participation of all workers in defense industries, without discrimination because of race, creed, color, or national origin

Franklin D. Roosevelt
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

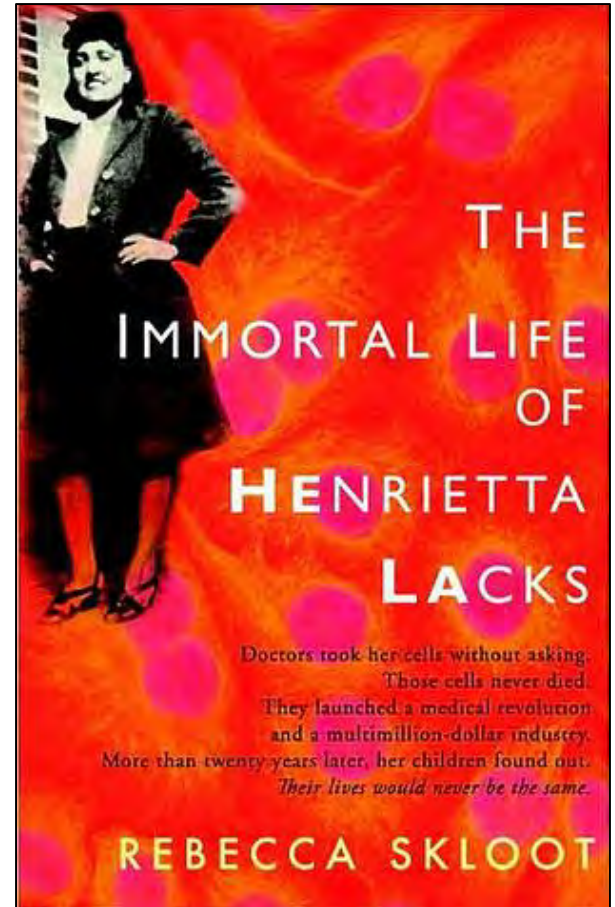
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF WAR

*Group from Executive Order 8802

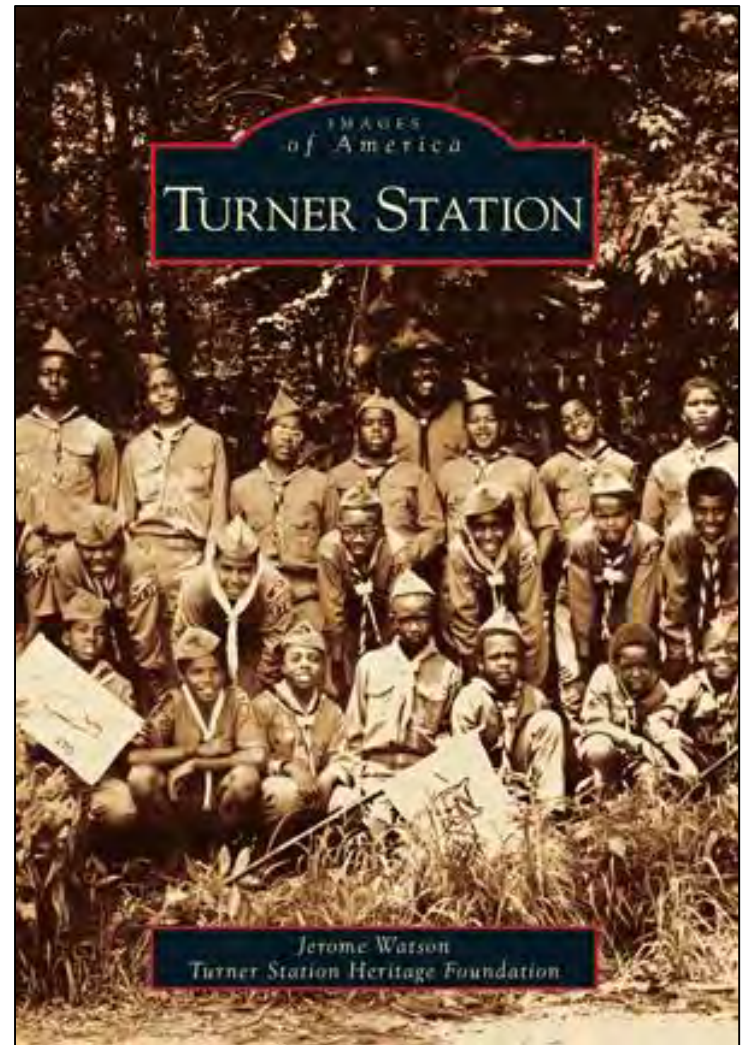


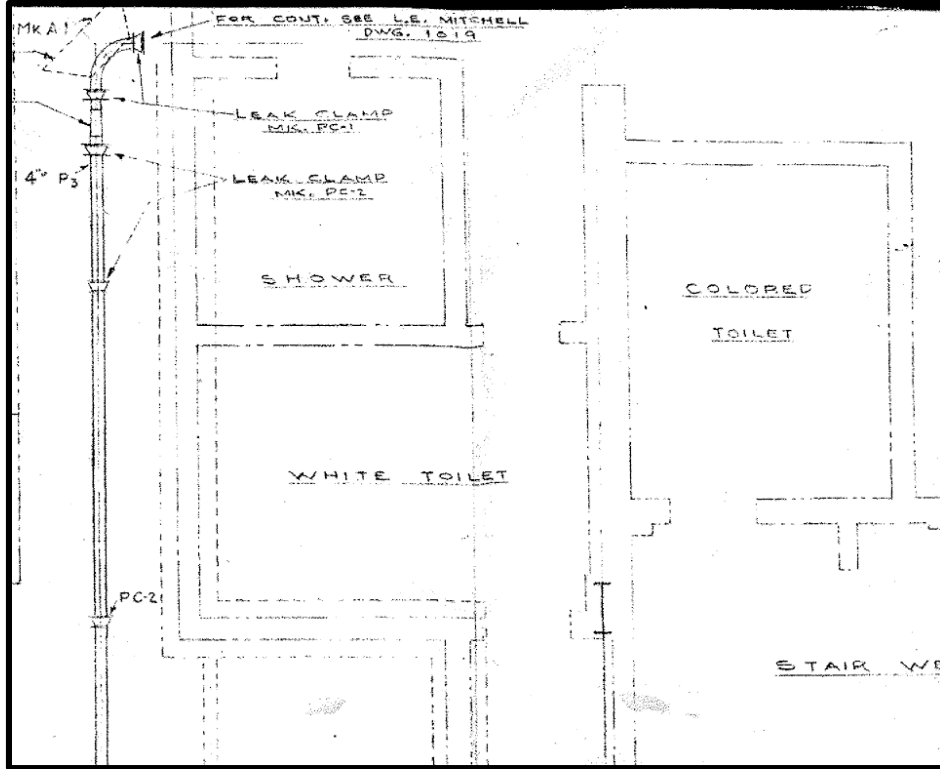
Preparing for a "tap," L Furnace Keeper, Charles Woods, is one of many African American men who has worked in the Bethlehem Steel Mill on Sparrows Point

Photo courtesy of Louis Diggs



Among the workers drawn to Sparrows Point to work during World War II, was Day Lacks, husband of Henrietta, who lived in Turner Station.







The Consent Decree in 1974 was a significant moment for civil rights in the steel industry, a movement that started in the 1940's



“There was a lot of jobs that blacks weren't allowed to do or the unions that they weren't allowed to promote into--your mechanical department, your maintenance period, mechanical, electrical, your machine shops and all that. It was just a very few, if any, blacks. And as a result, by 1968 after going to Washington and bringing the government in, the company and the union got together and we opened up the plan that you got promoted with your plant seniority instead of unit seniority.”

--Eddie Bartee



STRUGGLES IN STEEL



"Intelligent and informative...The filmmakers cull revealing and often deeply moving commentaries from interviews with more than 70 steelworkers...An effective teaching tool."

---Variety




Edie Papadakis (Butler) was one of the first women hired into the mill after the Consent Decree. She was the daughter and niece of steelworkers at The Point.

“Well, nobody worked with me for two days. I sat on the bench, and I thought what can I say to these guys to really make them mad, and I said I am getting paid for just sitting here. They are out there sweating, working their rear ends off, and I'm just sitting there getting a nice pay, and I told them that and they got mad, and the one says ‘well then, you are coming with me’ and then I got to start. It was one way of getting them.”


Photo by Chiaki Kawajiri *Baltimore Sun*



Mary Lorenzo—Woman of Steel



*Let this magic mineral,
ASBESTOS,
 protect the buildings
 on your farm!*

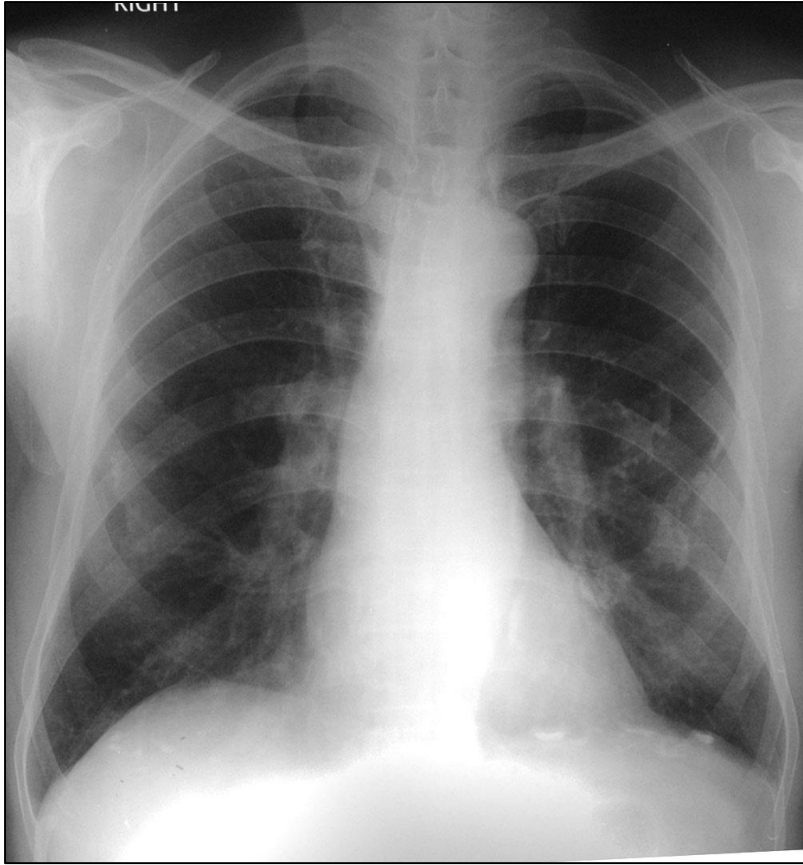


Asbestos! The magic mineral of the Middle Ages. Today, still a "magic" mineral; fireproof, rot-proof, and practically indestructible. When combined with portland cement it is manufactured into products which are especially important on the farm, because they provide permanent protection against fire, weather, and wear. Read this folder. Learn how to put this magic mineral to work on your farm.

Asbestos was named by the ancient Greeks who also recognized certain hazards of the material. The Greek geographer Strabo and the Roman naturalist Pliny-the-Elder noted that the material damaged the lungs of slaves who wove it into cloth.

When the industrial properties of asbestos were first introduced just before the Civil War it was considered a miracle mineral. It is tough, resilient, yet sufficiently pliable in some forms to allow the mineral fibers to be woven. Asbestos will not burn in any flame and has excellent insulation properties as well. It is the perfect raw material for insulation around industrial sites that use heat.

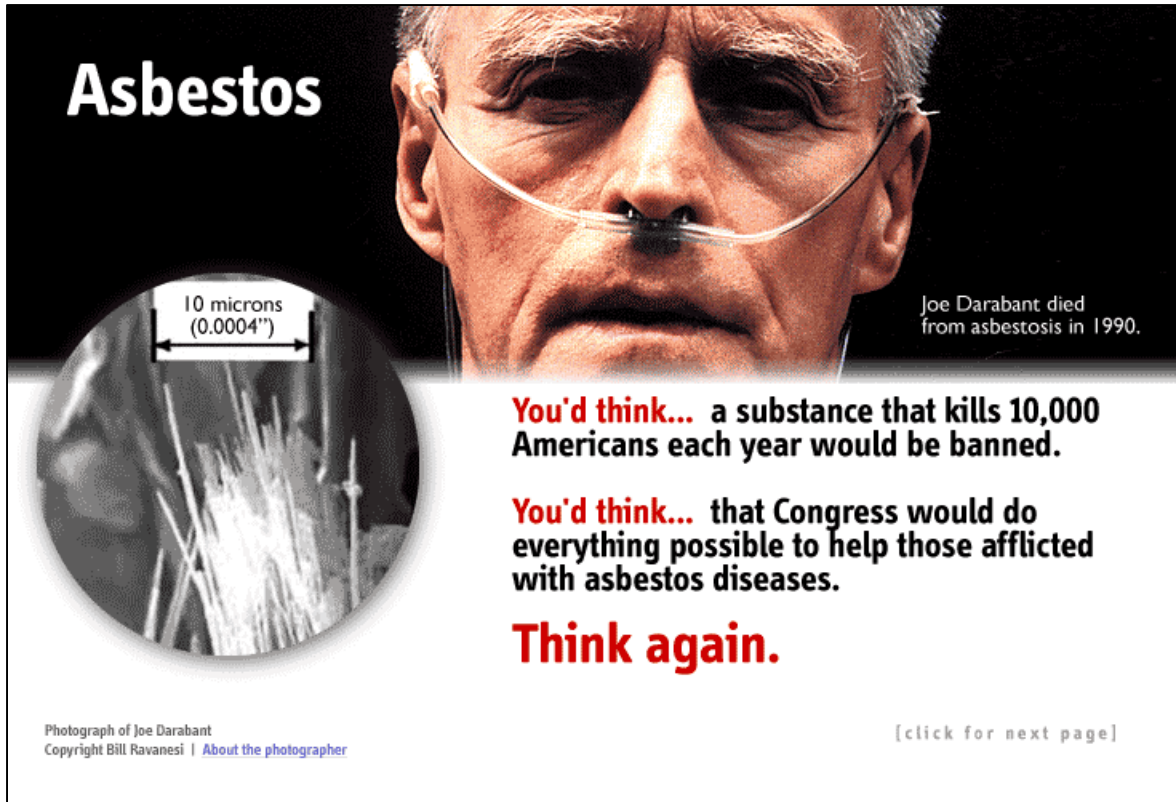
In 1930, a report was produced for the major asbestos company Johns-Manville, for internal company use only, about asbestos worker fatalities. In 1932, A letter from U.S. Bureau of Mines to asbestos manufacturer Eagle-Picher stated "It is now known that asbestos dust is one of the most dangerous dusts to which man is exposed."



Mesothelioma is an aggressive cancer affecting the membrane lining of the lungs and abdomen and is caused by exposure to asbestos. The hundreds of steel mills and fabrication shops used asbestos as insulation for buildings, furnaces, forges, and other steel processing equipment. Thousands of workers were fitted out with asbestos clothing or gloves or aprons to protect them from heat exposure. Thousands more working in fabricating shops had similar experiences because asbestos gloves, aprons and hats were worn by welders and steel finishers just as they were by steel workers operating blast furnaces and rolling mills.

In 1981, attorney Peter Angelos began representing steelworkers in asbestos cases and filed for six former bricklayers, some of whom started working for the company in 1936. Angelos introduced evidence that in 1952, doctors administering physicals at the Sparrows Point dispensary, saw evidence of asbestosis on chest X-rays and concealed the results.

Asbestos



Joe Darabant died from asbestosis in 1990.

You'd think... a substance that kills 10,000 Americans each year would be banned.

You'd think... that Congress would do everything possible to help those afflicted with asbestos diseases.

Think again.

Photograph of Joe Darabant
Copyright Bill Ravanese | [About the photographer](#)

[click for next page]

Eventually, settlements and awards in such cases made Angelos a rich man and a hero to many steelworkers and the cases—now filed against manufacturers since the steel companies declared bankruptcy—are continuing.

In 1991, more than 10,000 asbestos-related cases were consolidated into a single case.

In March 2011, a jury awarded four asbestosis sufferers, including two former Sparrows Point workers, \$9.6 million in a suit against asbestos manufacturer Wallace & Gale.

New Bethlehem blast furnace, at Sparrows Point, Md., is the largest, most modern in the Western Hemisphere.

Towering almost 300 feet above ground level, blast furnace "L" is the first in the U.S. of the world's new generation of blast furnaces. It will produce 8,000 tons of molten iron a day.

This new blast furnace represents one of the largest single expenditures in the history of Bethlehem Steel.

"L" furnace will replace four old furnaces. In addition to providing the economies of the latest ironmaking technology, it will aid our Sparrows Point plant in its environmental control efforts. "L" furnace is equipped with advanced air and water quality control facilities.

This new blast furnace is a multi-million-dollar investment in Bethlehem's future...and in the future of the American

steel user who wants the reliable source of supply only a strong domestic steel industry can provide.

Nearly \$4 billion in ten years

In the past ten years, Bethlehem has invested nearly \$4 billion to modernize, expand and maintain production facilities and install environmental control facilities.

In 1978 alone, a number of other efficient Bethlehem production and service units were also completed. For example:

- A new steel plate mill—a marvel in steel technology—at our Burns Harbor, Ind., plant.

- A new steel bar mill—the world's most technologically advanced—at our Lackawanna, N.Y., plant.

- A new 1,000-foot-long Great Lakes boat that carries 60,000 tons of iron ore pellets—and unloads itself.

Modernizing is something we work at all the time at Bethlehem—to the best of our financial ability.

A capital expenditure of nearly \$4 billion over the past ten years isn't peanuts—especially when you consider that our investment in recent years was made in the face of record tonnages of low-priced steel imports, rising costs, and inadequate profits.

Solutions to these problems will help us generate additional funds for capital investment...help us apply new technology where needed to improve profits and remain competitive. Bethlehem will continue to work hard to find those solutions.

Bethlehem 



L Blast Furnace, 1978
Courtesy Bob Winn.



An unidentified gentleman keeping an eye on a belt conveying one of the many sizes and types of nails that were made by the nail machines in the Rod & Wire Mills.

--Photo courtesy of Mike Stilwell

Louis D. Baldi At 18 years old in 1966 I started my work career in the Rod & Wire Mill at Sparrows Point, although I never worked in the Nail Mill I did traverse through it many times, you literally had to shout.

Jeff Patton I spent a lifetime there in the summer of 1968. (9/10/16)



In the 1960's, the company provided tours of the plant for various groups, like schools. Tour guides would lead them on bus rides through the plant, with walks through some of the mills, ending with lunch in the main office cafeteria. Each member of the tour would be given a small box of nails, about 3" x 3-1/2" x 1".

—courtesy Mike Stillwell





Courtesy Jim Blankenship





On February 25, 1997, Bethlehem Steel agreed to an unprecedented, \$50 million cleanup with the Environmental Protection Agency at Sparrows Point to curb pollution that had been fouling the air, water and land for years.

High levels of contamination in the groundwater and sediment have been recorded in some areas of the plant and the nearby creek. The wastes include benzene, chromium, lead, naphthalene, benzo(a)pyrene, and zinc but no comprehensive analysis of the creek water and sediment has ever been conducted, nor a health assessment. Little cleanup has occurred, on or off the plant site.



Aerial of world-class Cold Mill - commissioned in 2000.

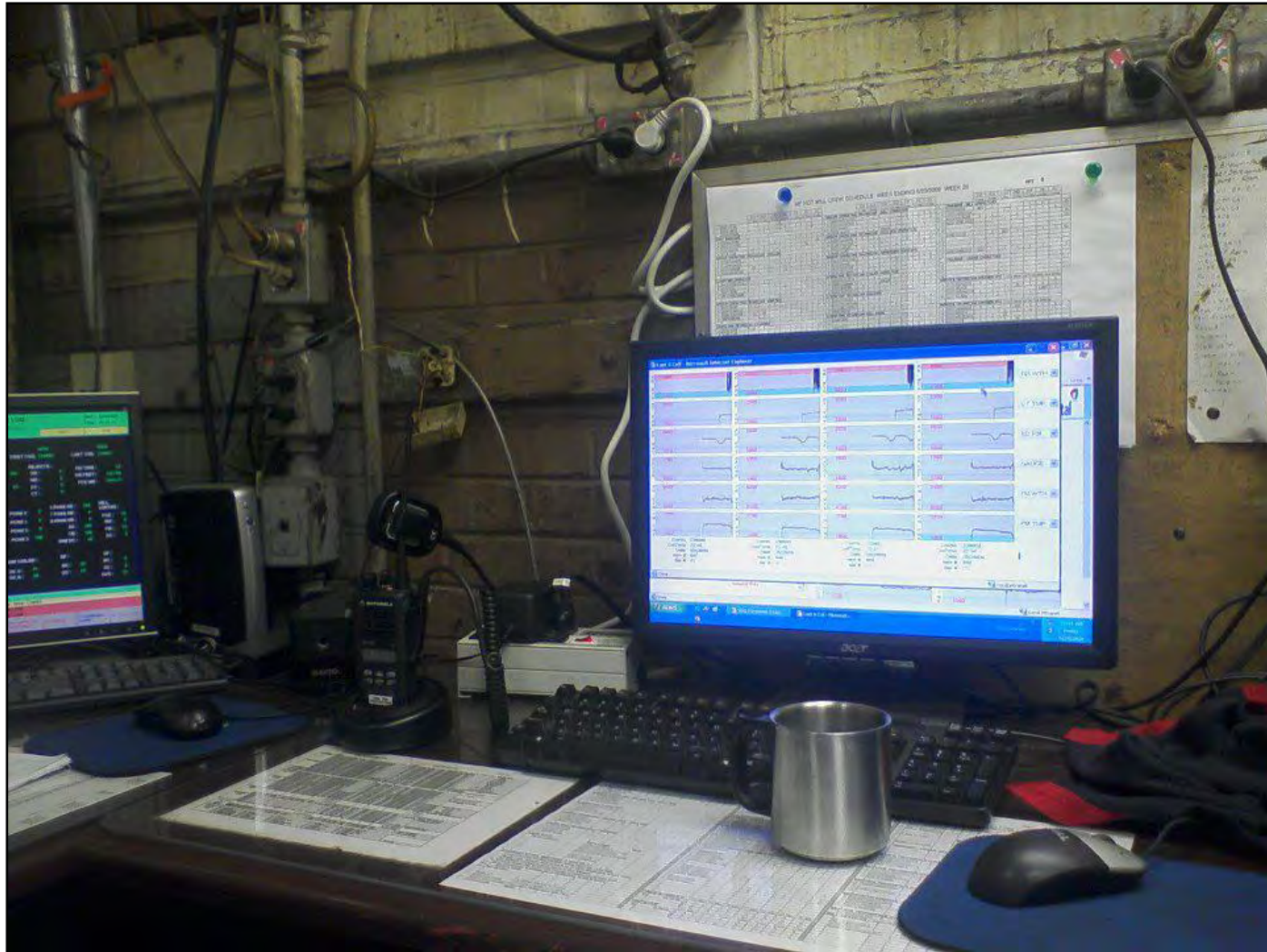
Coils wait for shipment at cold mill. The mill is capable of producing 1.5 million tons of cold-rolled sheet products.





The cold rolling plant at Bethlehem Steel Sparrows Point in 2003

Photo by Algerina Perna *The Baltimore Sun*



Modern steelmaking—the 68” Hot Mill office



Photo by Jay Mallin-2005



Courtesy of Bill Goodman



“In the plate mill area of Bethlehem Steel plant, where over 5,000 are presently employed, Douglas Penn, age 56, works as a "Heater." He was photographed in the charging crane, with the "3 High Mill" behind him. He is responsible for slabs coming out of the furnace at 2450 degrees F. as they go into the 3 High Mill which forms the slabs into specific widths. Penn, who has worked at Bethlehem Steel for 36 years, said, "I take cold slabs, put 'em into burners and heat 'em up. You get accustomed to the heat. If the outside temperature is 100 degrees, it is 150 degrees in here. In this job, you have to be careful with what you are doing. If you do not keep your mind on your job, you can easily mess up." Photo by Amy Davis *Baltimore Sun*



Photo By Algerina Perna
The Baltimore Sun







Evening Primrose
Photo by Bud Lippert



Photo by Kris Sabol



Good Day on the '56 (1994)

Photo courtesy of Thad Isner



Keith Wheeler, Wally Kirklewski, Mark Lara, Bill Leasure on the 66 inch cold sheet mill. Photo by Thad Isner



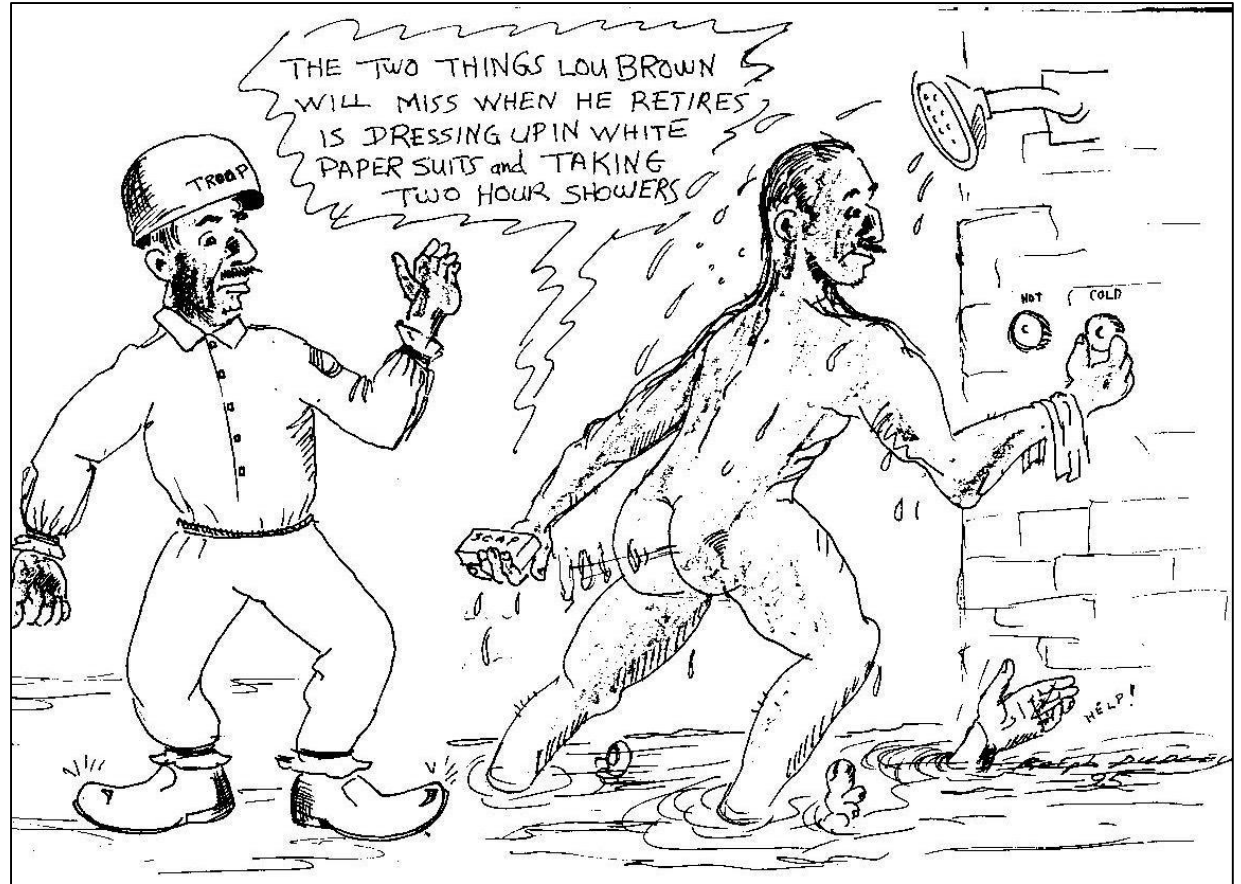
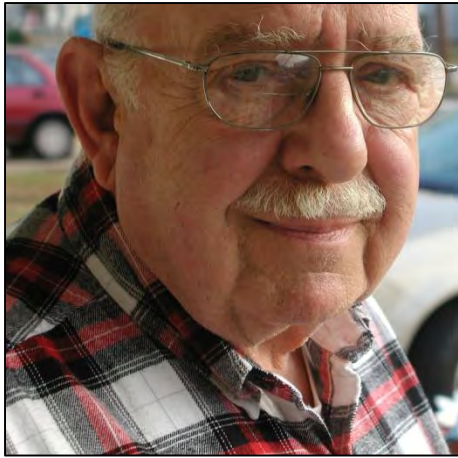


Last Day on the # 11 Mill

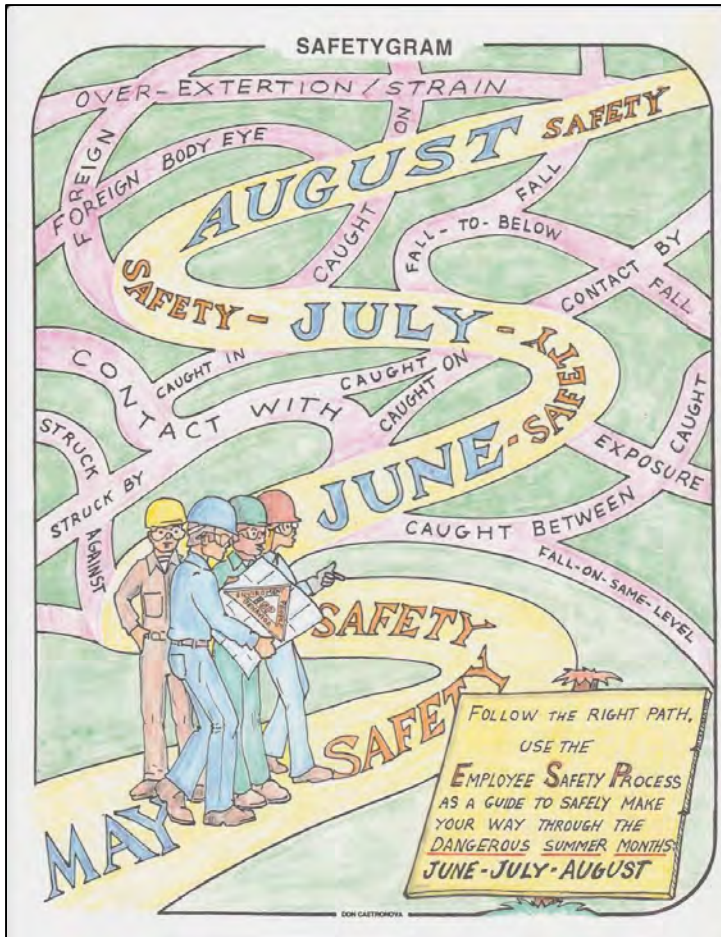


April 9, 2003 – A lone employee enters the massive doorway to the L Furnace at Bethlehem Steel at Sparrows Point.

Algerina Perna--Baltimore Sun



Cartoon by Ralph Dudley



Poster by Don Castronovo—shown being interviewed by Tokyo-TV, 2015



Photo courtesy Barbara Morris



For Lamont Handy-El--2013





“The Card Players”

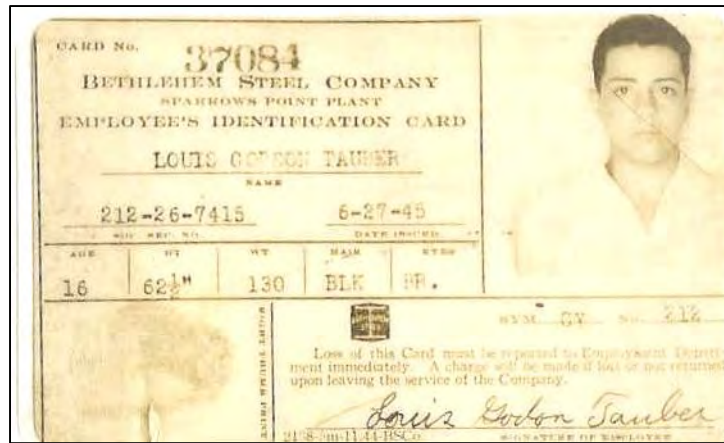


Courtesy Sparrows Point Memories Facebook
Photographer and subject not named



Working a double shift

Photo by Lamont Handy-El



Retirement Party

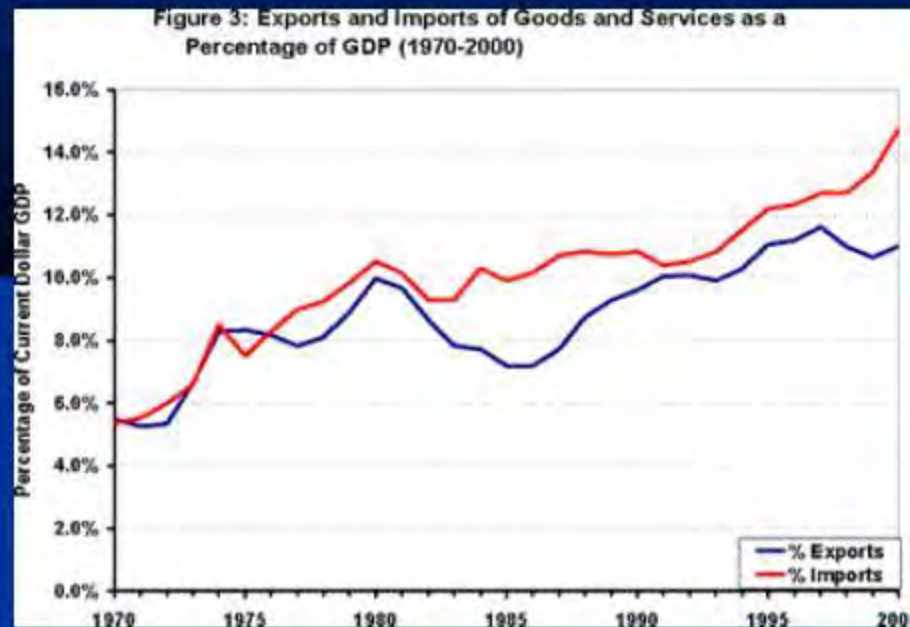
Courtesy Louis Tauber



Don Forrest 1989-2003



Deindustrialization



- Increases in foreign industrial efficiency allowed Europe, Asia, and Latin America to effectively compete by producing quality goods for a lower cost.
- Many American companies began outsourcing labor to foreign countries to remain competitive.
- This chart illustrates the balance of trade. The United States increasingly imports more than it exports.



Employment in 1985 at Sparrows Point fell below 10,000 for the first time since the Great Depression.



On September 24, 2001, Bethlehem Steel announced Robert S. “Steve” Miller—described as “a widely recognized and experienced turnaround expert”—as CEO. Within weeks, the company declared bankruptcy and on March 31, 2002, terminated all pensions (which were taken over at a steep loss by The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation) and all health insurance for the retirees as way of reducing the \$3 billion annual cost of its retiree health-care obligations—the “legacy costs.” There are 14,600 retirees in Baltimore area.

"Chapter 11 does not solve our problems," said Miller. "It provides us a process and framework within which we can address and explore the significant issues facing the company“ as well as working with the United Steelworkers union to reduce labor and health-care costs for active employees.

“Eliminating these responsibilities - coldly called 'stranded costs' - made Bethlehem Steel an attractive prospect for corporate bottom-feeder Wilbur Ross, who created The International Steel Group (ISG) to scoop up a series of failing steel companies. In April 2003, Ross bought Bethlehem Steel for \$1.5 billion, negotiating a controversial union contract with the USWA as part of the purchase agreement. This new union collective bargaining agreement gutted the Basic Steel agreement that had been in effect since the 1940's,

- collapsed 35 job classifications into 5,
- reduced vacation time,
- tightened discipline
- eliminated the defined benefit pension plan altogether,
- offered buy-outs to thousands of workers

At the same time, Ross and Miller promised to keep the Sparrows Point plant open and assured both future investment and prosperity.

True to form, however, Ross - described in The Baltimore Sun as 'a billionaire investor' (6/10/2006) flipped all of his steel companies within an 18-month period, and sold ISG in 2005 to global steel titan Lakshmi Mittal for a profit estimated at between \$118-300 million. . . .”

Navy vet Kerp. *The Daily Kos*. November 16, 2016



Wilbur Ross, Trump's Commerce pick, offshored 2,700 jobs since 2004

Reuters January 17, 2017



In April, 2003, a bankruptcy court approved the sale of all of Bethlehem's assets to International Steel Group (ISG) , headed by venture capitalist Wilbur Ross, ending

the company's 99 years in production as Bethlehem Steel.

In 2005, ISG sold out to Mittal Steel USA, a subsidiary of the Mittal Steel Company (Rotterdam, The Netherlands), which became Sparrows Point's third owner in 2005, forming the world's largest steel maker.

“Once considered the flagship of Bethlehem Steel Corporation, nearly 2,400 workers are employed at the Sparrows Point mill, which produces approximately 3 million tons of steel and 500,000 tons of tin mill products a year.”



Steelworkers in the global economy
Strike against Mittal Steel at Katowice, Poland,
2006





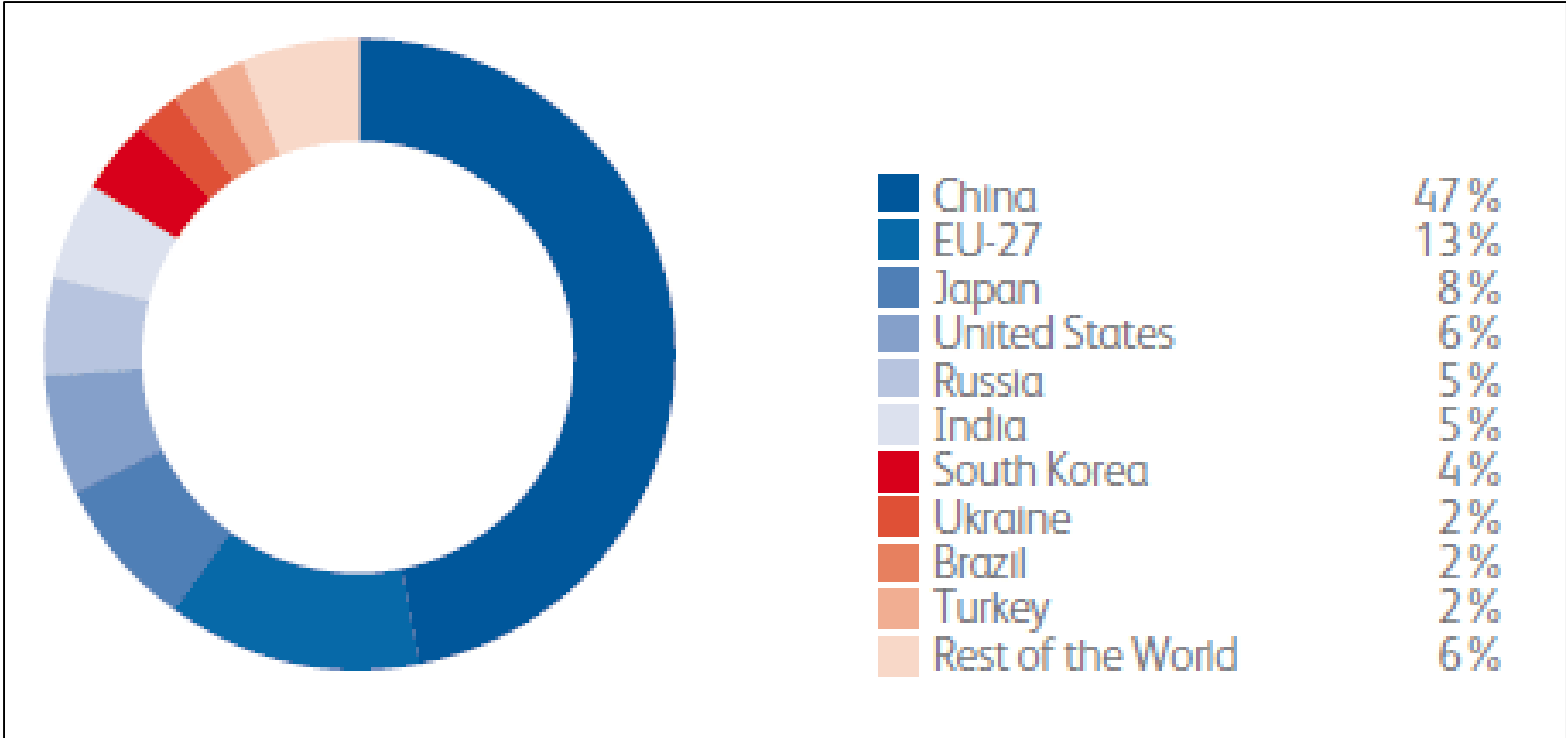
Demonstration on Merritt Blvd in Dundalk--2003



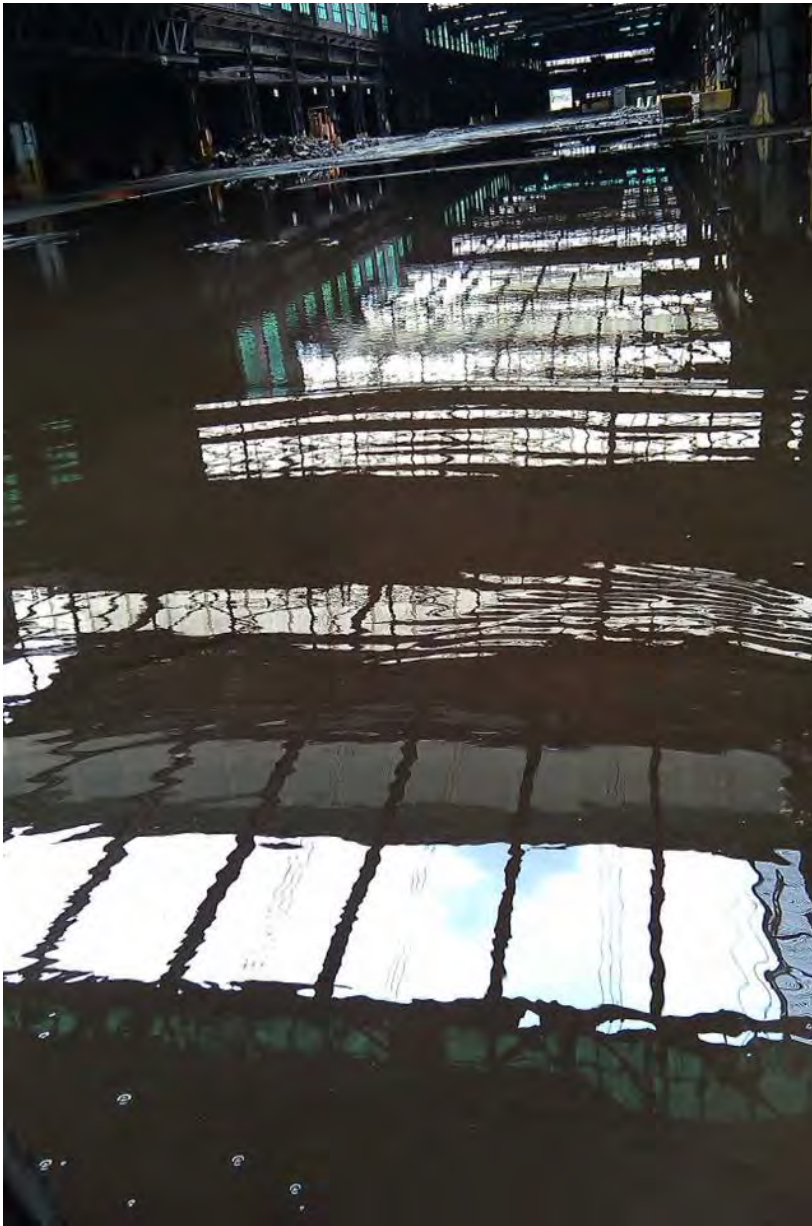
Phil Pack--2003



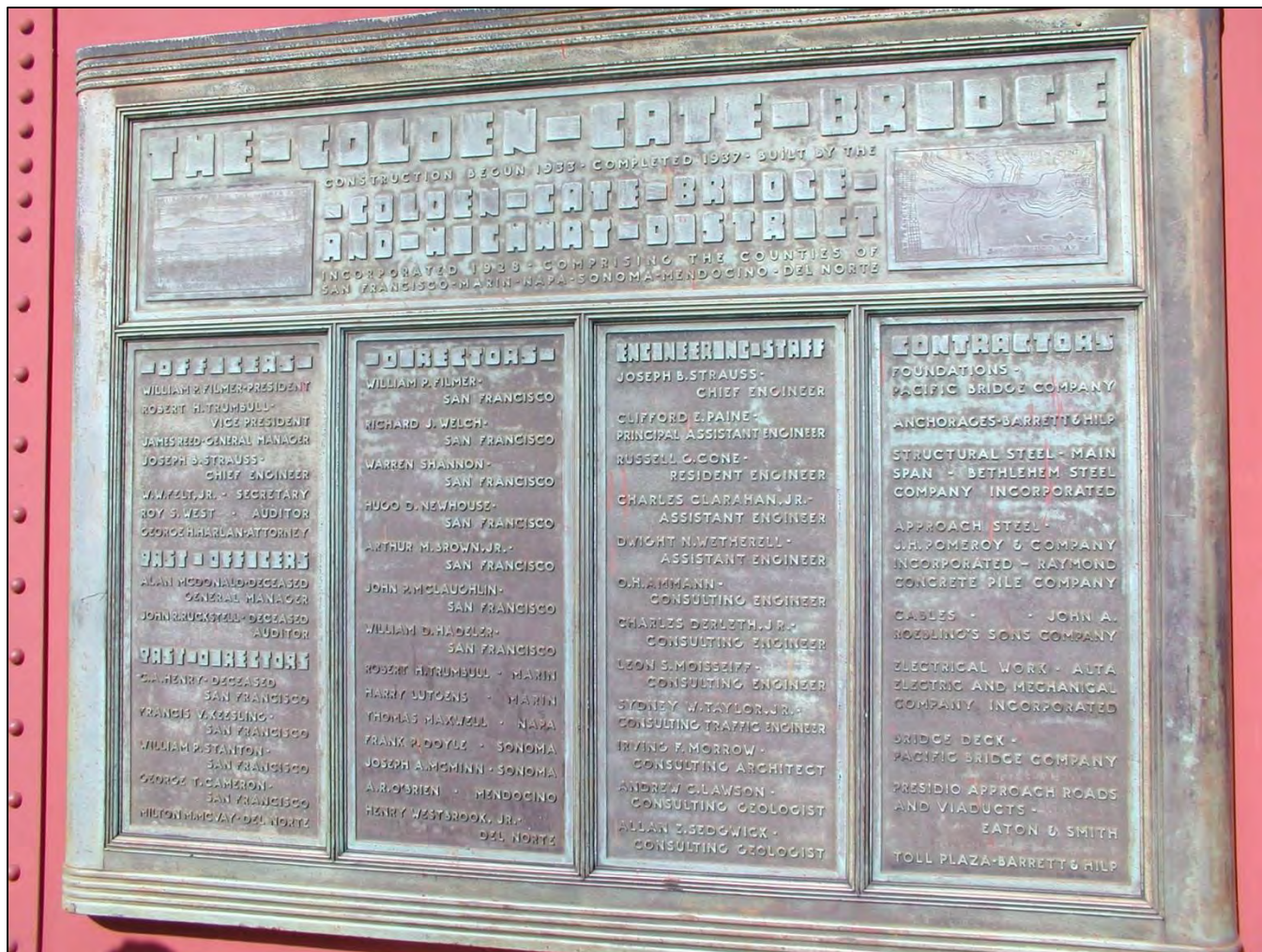
Did foreign steel kill Sparrows Point?



Global crude steel production by country in 2010



“Pictures of the 56" cold mill warehouse in 2011. Heavy rains after a snow caused the roof to collapse. You had to be aware of falling roof debris the last few months the coating lines operated. Being hit by a chunk could leave a permanent part in your hair. Running on a shoestring left little for building maintenance. I like the reflection of the roof in the flooded water. Note the 30' hole in the one picture.” Dave Baker 3/14/2016



As I walked across the Golden Gate Bridge in January, 2011, I saw this plaque on the bridge. At the same time, I could see the new construction on the Oakland Bay Bridge—all Chinese steel.



“May 20, 2016--The US has raised its import duties on Chinese steelmakers by more than fivefold after accusing them of selling their products below market prices.

The taxes of 522% specifically apply to Chinese-made cold-rolled flat steel, which is used in car manufacturing, shipping containers and construction. The US Commerce Department ruling comes amid heightened trade tensions between the two sides over several products, including chicken parts.

Steel is an especially sensitive issue. US and European steel producers claim China is distorting the global market and undercutting them by dumping its excess supply abroad. The Commerce Department also levied anti-dumping duties of 71% on Japanese-made cold-rolled steel.”

--BBC News



In February, 2007, the US Justice Department used anti-trust power to force Mittal to sell Sparrows Point so the company “does not have too much control over the market for tin plate used to make cans for foods, aerosol sprays, paints and other products.”

Mittal sold the plant for \$810 million to Russian steel maker Severstal in March, 2008, which in turn sold the business in March, 2011 to The Renco Group, headed by Ira Rennert, who ran the business as RG Steel. Rennert sold the property to a liquidator for \$ 72 million on August 8, 2012.



The last coil, in the New Cold Mill, on its way from the Skin Pass Mill to the Packaging Line, July 12, 2012.

Photo by Mike Stemple, courtesy of Mike Stilwell



With a net worth of \$5.9 billion, Ira Rennert's house in Southampton, NY has 29 bedrooms, 39 bathrooms, three dining rooms, three swimming pools, a 164-seat theater, a basketball court, a gymnasium and a two-lane bowling alley.



On May 12, 2012, officials of RG Steel announced that the whole mill would be “idled,” by June 18, laying off 1,714 hourly and 261 salaried workers, and pulling about \$3 million/ week from the local economy, and eliminating health insurance coverage.

While union officers were confident about finding a new owner, and workers scoffed at the rumors of a final shutdown--"Personally, we've been through this so much, I don't get shook up about this stuff," one worker told *Baltimore Sun* reporter Hanna Cho—eventually these efforts failed and the mill closed forever.

Photo by Fern Shen. *Baltimore Brew*



At a union meeting which overflowed the old 2610 hall, on August 12, 2012, workers learned that the union officers had not yet been able to find a buyer for the mill, and that health insurance benefits would be cut. A fund established to pay medical expenses was quickly exhausted.

Photo by Fern Shen. *Baltimore Brew*

**WE MUST
VOTE**

U-S-W TEL 633-9220
LOCAL 9477

TAFF

PRES. JOE ROSE L

VICE PRES. CHRIS

REC. SEC. SANDY WRIGHT

FIN. SEC. LEWIS

TREAS. BARTEE

SENIOR ST A OC.

PRES. D K LLNER

VICE PRES - DEYEAGER

REC SEC - H SOLITRO

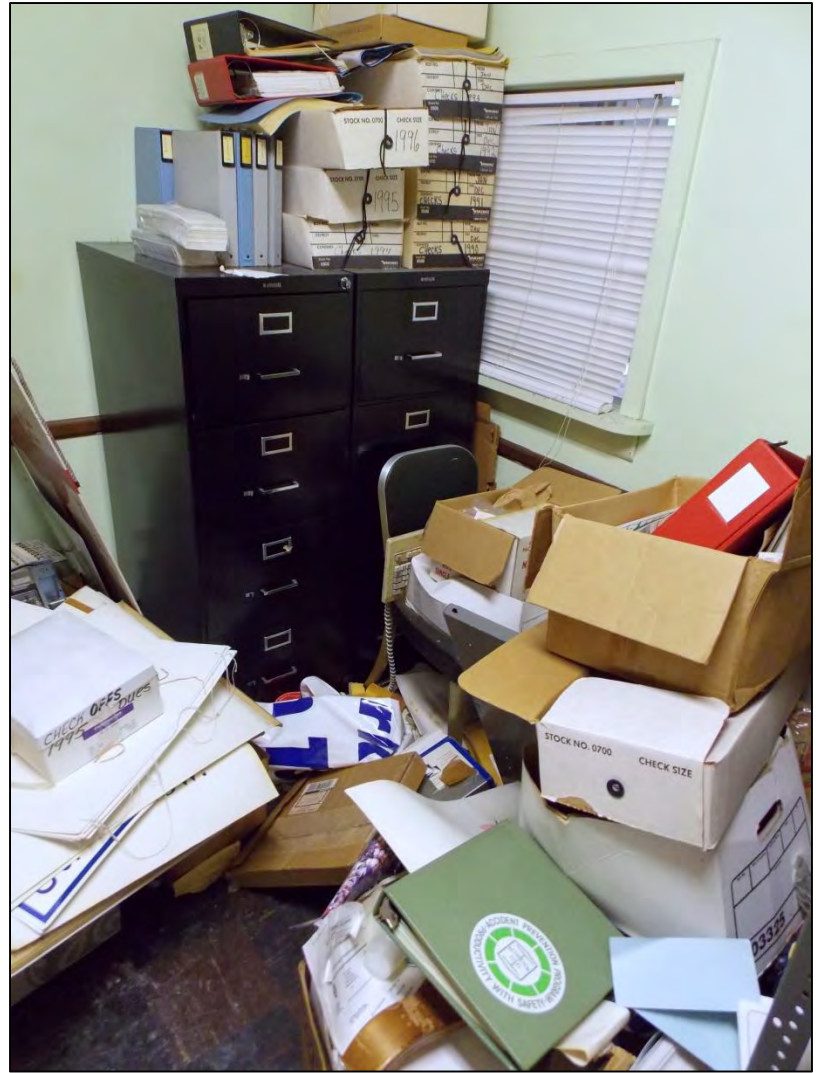
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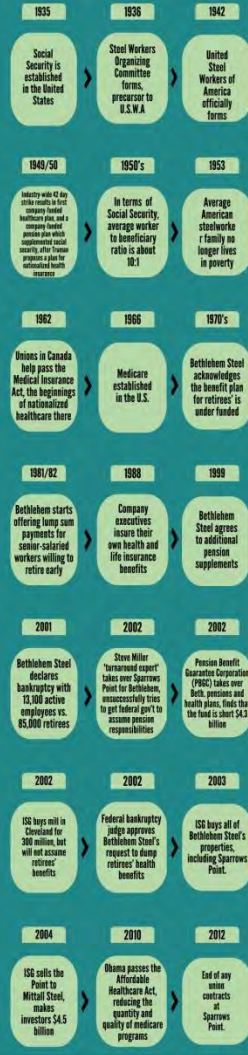
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Broken Promises at Sparrows Point

Sparrows Point was once the world's largest steel mill. Work at the mill was so hardwearing, the workers preferred a portion of their pay in the form of retirement and health benefits. These agreements were negotiated by the United Steel Workers (under several locals) and Bethlehem Steel on a national scale. While the USWA honored their agreements, Bethlehem Steel failed to do the same.



"There is no value in weeping over the loss unless you resolve not to let something like it happen again." - Bill Barry

*Special Thanks to USWA Local 8477 retirees, Bill Barry, and Deborah Rutledge



Sparrows
Point
Edgemere
STRAIGHT AHEAD

← Reservoir Rd
NEXT SIGNAL

FOR SALE
413-376-5265

14 Maryland 13

**SIGN INSIDE SPARROWS POINT PLANT GATE "G",
7-29-2013**



As one of the last 2,000 employees of the steel mill at Sparrows Point, I have been reading with interest The Sun's reporting of the steel plant's demise. Included in the last article was mention of a faded sign proclaiming "America – Strong as Steel" ("Sparrows Point auction brings hundreds to buy", Jan. 24). After the 9-11 tragedy, I was asked by my superintendent to paint a symbolic and patriotic sign.

Before the sign was placed at the plant entrance, it was the backdrop for a steelworker's rally at our union hall and at the national "Stand Up for Steel" rally in Washington, D. C. Now, years later, the Sign is again symbolic – of the destruction of steelmaking at Sparrows Point and 2,000 faded steelworkers.

Donald V. Castronova, Jarrettsville – 1-28-13

Sad day. It's the one year anniversary of myself and many others losing their job at RG Steel after the company filed bankruptcy. Miss my job and coworkers soo much. I'm never going to work at a place as awesome as that ever again. Not many people can say that they don't dread going to work...Well, working at the point, there was never a time where I dreaded going. Not to mention it was nice not living off a strict budget!

Lisa Marie June 8, 2013 *Memories of Sparrows Point (FB)*



“The attached pictures of the demolition of the Plate Mill buildings speak for themselves (taken 7-29-13). “

Mike Stilwell



Archie Reid Thompson "That makes me sick. My Grandfather came to this country from Scotland after World War 1, because there was no work there. He had an Uncle and cousins here in Sparrows Point, so he came here to work. He was a decorated War Hero, awarded a medal and commendation from King George, the Queen's Grandfather. He started working there in 1922-23 and someone in our family worked there until it closed in 2011, including me. My Father and his Brother and Sister were born in the house in the bungalows and my Grandmother lived there until the town was razed in 1972-73. (50 years) Their house is the only house still on Sparrows Point Property, on Wharf Road, now the Pleasant Yacht Club. Anyone who says the plant was bad for this area needs a quick kick in the Ass! We're going down the drain thanks to our politician friends. Don't forget to Vote."

December 23, 2013

[James Starlings](#) Ok, we're not even crying over spilled milk anymore. The milk has been dried up and even the rest of the carton has gone sour by now. What part of BANKRUPT do people not understand. That means that the company who owed you has no money and forfeit assets in attempt to resolve some debt to creditors but waive responsibility to the remainder while going out of business. The people who buy such assets are not responsible for your lost wages. The state who further fines or gives tax breaks to said company are not responsible for your lost wages. **YOU ARE NEVER GOING TO GET COMPENSATED!** Let it go and move on. You can't move on to your future while gripping tightly to your past. These may be harsh words to some but it is what it is!

2/15/2014



Rededication of Steelworker Memorial
Dundalk Heritage Park—October, 2013

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
 FOR MEDICAL EXAMINERS

01248
 Reg. Dist. No.

1226

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING

PLEASE WRITE PLAINLY WITH UNFADING INK. Supply every item of information carefully. The correct sex is especially important. Physician, please write the cause of death clearly and legibly.

1. PLACE OF DEATH COUNTY <u>Baltimore</u> STATE <u>MARYLAND</u>		2. USUAL RESIDENCE (HOME) OF DECEASED STATE <u>Md</u> COUNTY <u>BALTO</u>	
CITY (If outside corporate limits, write RURAL and give nearest town) OR TOWN <u>SPITHERS POINT</u> LENGTH OF STAY (In 1944 place)		CITY (If outside corporate limits, write RURAL and give nearest town) TOWN <u>Balto</u> COUNTY <u>BALTO</u>	
HOSPITAL, INSTITUTION OR STREET ADDRESS <u>Beth Steel Company</u>		STREET ADDRESS (If rural, give location) <u>1323 Mosher St</u>	
3. NAME OF DECEASED (First) (Middle) (Last) <u>Malcolm</u> <u>Bradford</u>		4. DATE OF DEATH (Month) (Day) (Year) <u>Feb</u> <u>1</u> <u>1954</u>	
5. SEX & COLOR OR RACE <u>M</u> <u>W</u>		6. DATE OF BIRTH (Month) (Day) (Year) <u>Feb 23 1895</u> <u>58</u> <u>77</u>	
7. USUAL OCCUPATION (If kind of work done during usual working hrs; or if retired)		8. AGE last birthday (Year) (Month) (Day) (Hour) (Min)	
9. FATHER'S NAME <u>John Bradford</u>		10. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME <u>Mable Bradford</u>	
11. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. <u>244-01-9669</u>		12. INFORMANT AND ADDRESS <u>Mable Bradford 1323 Mosher St</u>	
13. MEDICAL CERTIFICATION			
13a. DISEASES OR CONDITIONS DIRECTLY LEADING TO DEATH (Immediate cause) <u>412.3 Compound Fracture Skull</u>		INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH	
Antecedent causes (Demand no conditions, if any, giving rise to the above cause, stating the underlying cause last) <u>Crushing injury to chest.</u> <u>Traumatic AMR. mid third both feet.</u>			
13b. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS Conditions contributing to the death but not related to the immediate condition causing death. <u>None</u>			
14. DATE OF OPERATION <u>Feb 1 1954</u>		15. MAJOR FINDINGS OF OPERATION	
16. EXTERNAL PLACE OF PRIMARY CONTRIBUTING GAIN OF DEATH <u>Spithers Point</u>		17. PLACE (Home, farm, factory, street, etc.) (City or town) (County) (State) <u>Spithers Point BALTO MD</u>	
18. TIME (Hour) (Day) (Year) (Month) (Day) (Year) <u>Feb 1 5:10 PM</u>		19. INJURY OCCURRED (Write as to whether at work or elsewhere) <u>Run over by 1947 Buick</u>	
22. I certify that I took charge of the remains described above, held an Autopsy Inspection Inquiry Dissection and from the evidence obtained by said Autopsy Inspection or Inquiry, and that said deceased died on the day stated above, and death to my opinion resulted from: natural causes () accident () suicide () homicide () undetermined ()			
SIGNATURE <u>M. S. Davis M.D. By med. Exam - Dundas in Md</u>		ADDRESS <u>Dundas in Md 21154</u>	
23. REMOVAL (Permit) <u>2/16/54</u>		NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY <u>St. Andrew</u>	
DATE AND BY LOCAL REGISTRAR <u>2/3/54</u>		LOCATION (City, town, or county) (State) <u>Balto. Md.</u>	
24. LOCAL REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE <u>W. H. Jackson</u>		25. GENERAL DIRECTOR'S ADDRESS <u>1303 Sweetman St</u>	

Death certificate for Malcolm Bradford February 1, 1954

- Compound skull fracture
- Crushing injury to chest
- Traumatic to both feet

Brett Fulton "We had your lives pulled a part after 33 1/2 years I like many others had to start all over, its not a fun this to do at our ages."

Jennifer Bartal Roth "It doesn't matter how much time goes by, this stuff still hits me hard and makes me feel a sense of panic, horror and loss. So sad."

John Markel Jr "I worked at sparrows point for 34 years feel sorry for the guys that had 30 years & couldn't retire because of they were to young, brings tears to my eyes to see these videos because my dad worked there for 46 years & to see what happened to it."

Jane Hugunin Kay "You can honor a legacy all you want, but you can't build a future on something that was so precious to so many and still lives in their hearts by looking to the future. That future will never exists for us as long as our memories are still clear!!"

11/2014

Brothers and Sisters of Sparrows Point Food Pantry

Sponsored by:



**MARYLAND
FOOD BANK**
UNTIL HUNGER ENDS.



Laughing Wolfe Resources, Inc.

Hosted by:



United Ironworkers Local 16

ONE DAY ONLY!

April 9th (Thursday)
Time: 12PM - 4PM

2008 Merritt Avenue
Local Ironworkers Hall
Baltimore, Maryland 21222

If you are in need of groceries, please come out and pick up.

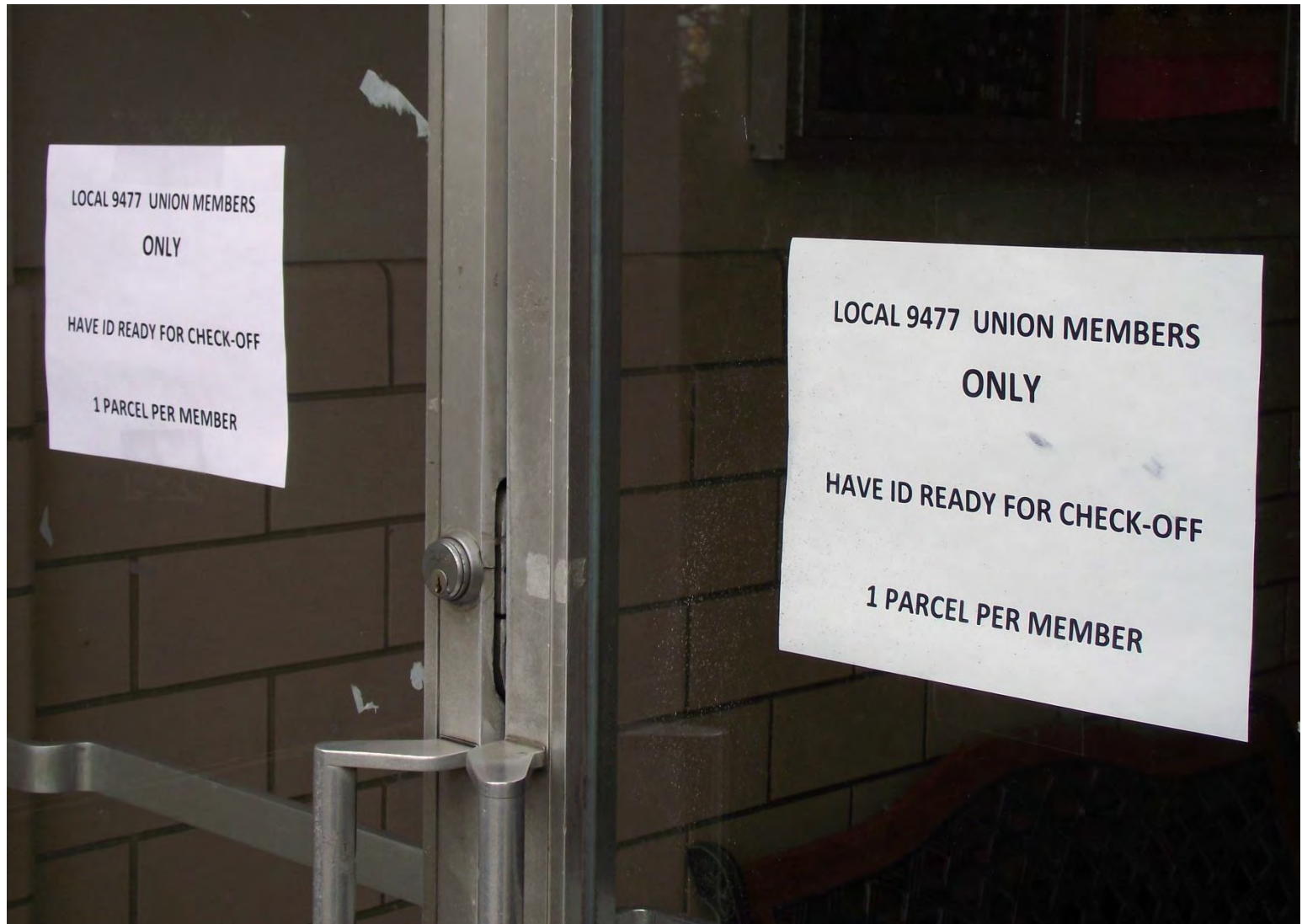
No ID required.



Food Bank at Steelworkers Union Hall. November, 2013



Food Bank at Steelworkers Union Hall. November, 2013



Food Bank at Steelworkers Hall—November, 2013



Food bank at Steelworkers' Union Hall—November, 2013



”It doesn't matter how much time goes by, this stuff still hits me hard and makes me feel a sense of panic, horror and loss. So sad.”



Building collapses during demolition May 5, 2014
Photo by Algerina Perna— *The Baltimore Sun*



SLAB HAULER SHOP (LANGENFELDER)

PATAPSCO & BACK RIVERS (P & B R) RAILROAD SHOP

BILLET PREP BLDG

SHEET MILL OFFICE COMPLEX

SITE OF GATE-F

TRACTOR SHOP



SITE OF FCE.
PULPIT BLDG.

SO. END 68
HSM BLDG.

AERIAL VIEW OF SPARROWS POINT, LOOKING WEST (OCT., 2014) by Cal Keeney



November, 2014

THE 2014 ELECTION

“Alright people i did my duty and voted the basterds out. Everybody get out and vote , especially Brown and Kamenetz , vote them all out , never forget what happened to us. Make your voice heard and get maybe a little payback to those who hurt us. Never forget !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”

“From the time I started working for Bethlehem Steel in 1966, every election season, the politicians would show up at #1 clock house asking for your vote promising you that they were fighting to save your jobs. The scene outside of the window shows just how hard they fought.”

“I hope Kevin Kanmynutz can see this post because I'd like to tell him to suck my crank.”

“So what the "news" doesnt report is how no one wants to start an industry in MD...hell look at how many have left in the last few years. This state is like the big bad wolf licking its chops while trying to lure in the sheep....but the sheep know better, they can see all the corpses of what used to be. they can claim what they want, but the proof is in the pudding, they would rather have 200 walmarts and McD's then 1 factory. deep water port my ass.....deep pockets in gov”



August, 2015



November 24, 2014—
Sparrows Point Terminal Open House



**Maryland
Department of
the Environment
Public
Informational
Meeting on the
Former
Sparrows Point
Steel Mill
Environmental
Cleanup**



Steve Pomeroy
November 24, 2014



Mill model and photo courtesy of Bill Wolf



Searching for a lost relative

“A friend of mine found this in her parent's belongings while cleaning out the house. It belonged to her grandfather who lived in Highland Town. I got excited when she showed me and thought you would enjoy it, too. I wasn't sure what the letters and numbers meant.”

Nancy Coleman 2/27/2015



Billboard at the end of the Peninsula Expressway.
January, 2015





The monthly meeting of the Retired Steelworkers draws hundreds of former workers to the old Local 2609 union hall on Dundalk Avenue.





Gala Bull & Oyster Roast

Presented By
Retirees United Local 9477



Date: Saturday, February 1, 2014

Time: 1:00-5:00 pm

Place: United Auto Workers Hall
1010 So. Oldham St.

Price: \$35.00 per person or \$350.00 for a table of 10

Catering Provided by: M&M Supreme

**W
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Menu: Raw Oysters on the half-shell, Top Round Beef on the Pit, Roasted Turkey Breast on the Pit, Sweet Italian Sausage on the Pit, Homemade Maryland Crab Soup, Bar-B-Q Baked Chicken, Creamy Garlic Whipped Potatoes, Sauerkraut & Kielbasa, Baked Ziti with Meat sauce, Seasoned Green Beans, Greek Salad with Fresh Feta, Homemade Pasta Salad, Chips & Pretzels, Assortment of Breads & Rolls for Pit Items and Deserts.

Drinks Include: Beer, Assorted Soda, Bottled Water, Ice Tea, Lemonade and Coffee.

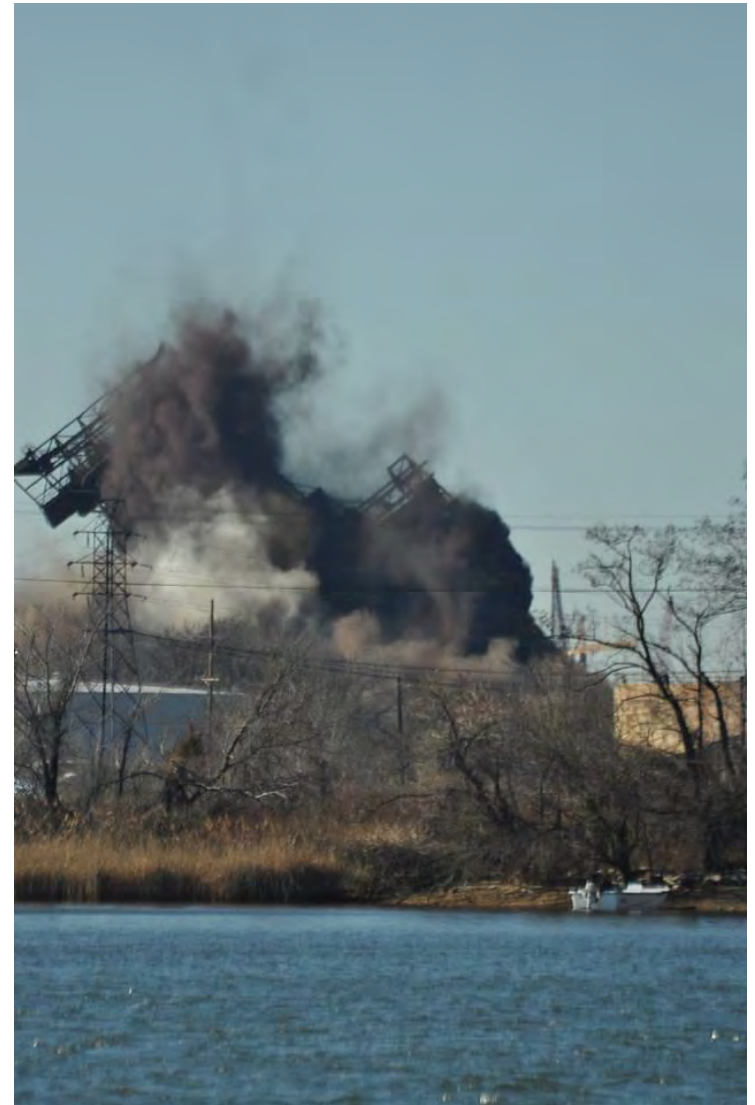
Raffles

Silent Auction

Ticket Info Call: Don Kellner 410-227-8462

God Bless America

Retirees United Local 9477 - USW



Demolition of the “L” Furnace—January 28, 2015

Photos by Bill Goodman



Demolition of the “L” Furnace—January 28, 2015

Photo by Bill Goodman



Photo by Mike Stilwell 1/26/2015

Jim Blankenship Michael excellent pictures I truly appreciate all these pictures. I worked on L furnace for 35 years from start to finish from top to bottom. i'm just disappointed I didn't get a chance to retire from the BIG OLE' "L". I have hundreds of pictures inside and out, up-and-down and plenty of memories. It's hard to believe probably in the next coming weeks it'll be no longer there.



“Of particular note is the Christmas star on the top structure of ‘L’ Furnace, which has been lit over the past three decades during the Christmas holidays. It is now doomed to be dark forever.”

---Al Westra and Mike Stilwell (2014)



THIS CREW REMOVED THE STAR FROM THE TOP OF “L” BLAST FURNACE, LANDED IT ON THE GROUND, MOVED IT TO A SECURE LOCATION, REFURBISHED IT, AND RELIT IT. THEY ARE, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, MALCOLM ADDISON, STEVE FIGLIEL, MIKE VOGLER, DON BERRY, ED KAMINISKI, WILLIE CARGO, ANDY AMRHEIN, JEFF CRABILL, AND PHIL CRISP.



Relighting the Star—December, 2015

Bill Baker The point was my second home and a friend. It did a lot for me. It actually helped me through a bad time in my life. I've said before, for me, its my friend who is dying and theres nothing i can do to help him . Its a sad sad time that should not have come. Too soon. Way too soon.

(12/8/2014)

Alan Almony L Furnace put a roof over my head, diapers on my butt, food in my mouth, and the same for my 2 kids. This breaks my heart:(12/8/2014)

Josh Polanowski Scars left by the mill: It's odd, but nearly 3 years later and 1,500 miles away. [living in Houston, TX] I still find myself packing a double lunch every day, just in case I get stuck on a double. (Not that it can happen). (1/12/15)

James Tolston Better to have to much food, then not enough. Plus, one of your friends might be working a double and you could share any left overs. (1/12/15)

“I Worked at L furnace from 1978 to 1982. I have some of the fondest memories of my working career there. In the shadow of this great machine I was challenged to do the best I could at everything I touched while working on it. The people were the best you could ever hope to work with. We were all challenged to do something great and felt like we were. It left an impression on my life that's hard to overstate. its just sad that our country and the industrial system in it let us and the big L down.

“I was wondering why we don't get the gang back together one evening somewhere to celebrate L being in our life and see one another again. Before we are all gone.”

Stan Michalski
February 5, 2015



A crew from Tokyo-TV toured the grounds for a story on the impact of free trade agreements. August 19, 2015

Josh Polanowski

FORMER USW 9477 INFORMATION PAGE

Houston, TX · August 31, 2015

“Just a quick question: I know it's been a few years since we all got the boot, but has anyone else been experiencing P.T.S.D. (Post traumatic stress disorder) type symptoms? For example: vivid nightmares about the mill, jumpy nerves, angry reactions to sudden and loud noises, trembling or shaking when stressed or pressured. I'm just asking to find out if I'm the only one. If so, please comment and tell what area you worked in. It seems like it's getting harder to control my anger. Like sometimes I have to go outside and break stuff or hit something.”

Robert Perry October 20, 2015

Stevensville, MD

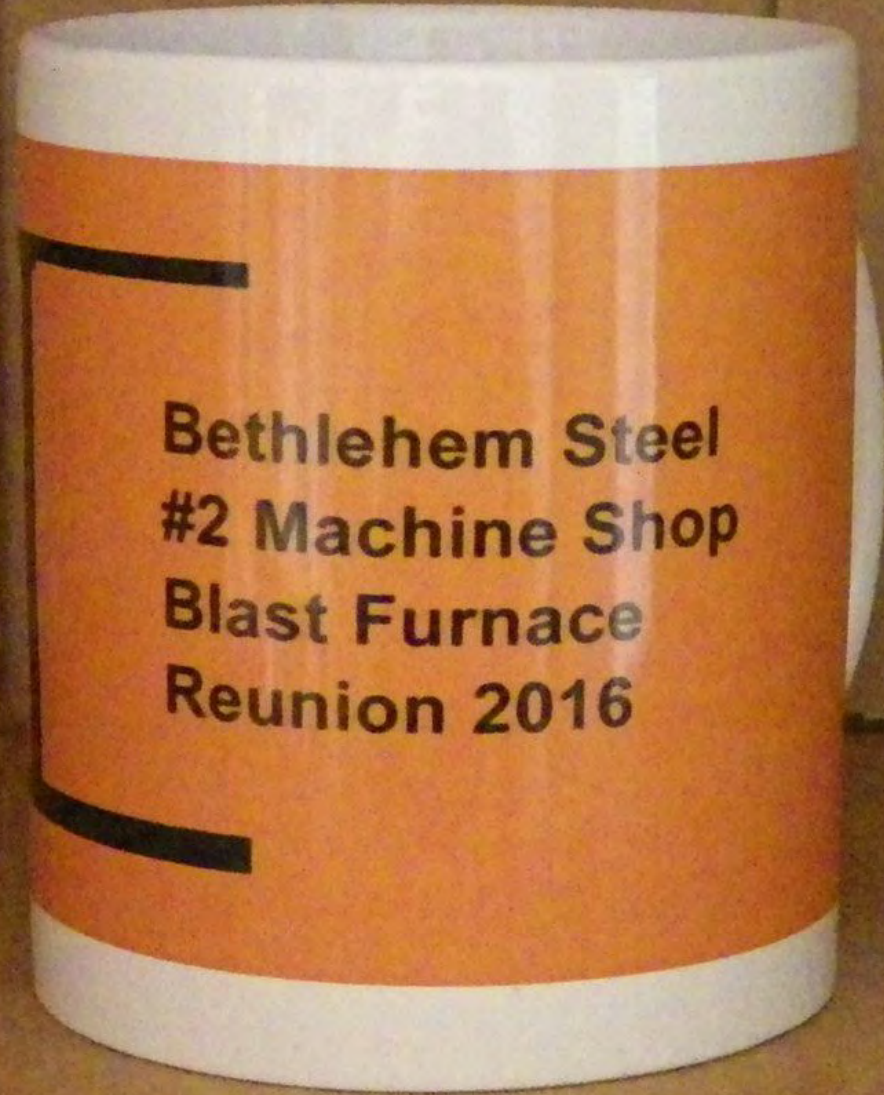
It amazes me how much time and coverage TV news spends on a 60-year old guy who turned his self in to a girl and a guy that spent 70 grand in a whore house and O D on coke but when the steel mill closed and 4000 people lost there jobs some lost every thing they worked for The news spent 2 or 3 min talking about that and not much more was ever on the news

Kirby Summers Don't forget to mention the 18 steel workers who committed suicide since the mill shut down, that's what I heard from Dennis Shoop when a few of us from the Mill got out for an evening a year after the mill shut down. Never heard that on TV did you ! What a shame !!!

James Tolston I remember back in 1983, I was working in the Pipe Mill. When they shut it down, two of my friends had hung themselves. This is unbelievable.

Barb Vaughn Actually, Donna Hamilton from WBAL was grinning and smiling during a broadcast on the evening news talking about the closing and people losing their jobs. Lost all respect for her....very sad how all news media treat catastrophic & life changing situations.

Rick Butler Priorities, priorities, priorities.....if it was to benefit the everyday workers then the media didn't give a shit ,the government didn't give a shit. The truly sad thing is the brothers we have lost over the years since the closure of the mill.

A white ceramic mug with a wide orange band around its middle. The mug has a white rim at the top and bottom. Two thick black horizontal lines are printed on the orange band, one above and one below the text. The text is printed in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**Bethlehem Steel
#2 Machine Shop
Blast Furnace
Reunion 2016**

STRAIGHT TO THE POINT



Welcome to the Spring 2016 issue of Straight to the Point!

Last year, Sparrows Point Terminal announced it was opening its doors for business. Now, as TradePoint Atlantic, we're announcing that we are officially opening our doors to the world.

[CLICK TO VIEW THE LATEST](#)



Bob Adams Yeah. logistics logistics logistics. In other words they are transforming a manufacturing center that provided good paying jobs into a center for warehousing and distributing imported garbage. Woopie. (April 11, 2016)

Dale Meyer Positive, think positive my friend. (April 11, 2016)

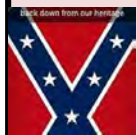
Bob Adams I was just hoping for something better. (April 12, 2016) —

Jeff Miller hope you go bankrupt quickly (April 11, 2016)

Michael Stilwell That kind of attitude is like cutting off your nose to spite your face. There may be some jobs created there, not like steelworkers wages, but jobs. A company is investigating the possibility of making the towers and related equipment for electric generating windmills, on the site. Let's hope they make a go of it. (May 17)

Jeff Miller You keep that positive attitude Michael. That and \$3.00 will get you a large coffee at Dunkin Donuts! (May 17, 2016)

Dale Meyer Jeff, they just bought the land that others destroyed. They had nothing to do with the demise of the Point. At least they are trying to make a buck off of the land and create jobs in the process. I don't want others to go the way we all went. I wish them the best.



Robert Fitzgerald Michael, I respect your opinion, but have mine too.... There was a whole LOT of people in on that DEAL !!!!!!! I DO HOPE IT SINKS IN THE RIVER AND NO ONE GETS ANY USE OUT OF IT !!!!!!! 33 years and to be treated like that..... NO !!!!!!!!

Glenn Evans Sounds like a crooked back room deal put together by Kamenetz and his deep pocketed associates.

Preserving the History of The Point



Photo by Jamie Smith-Hopkins/Baltimore Sun

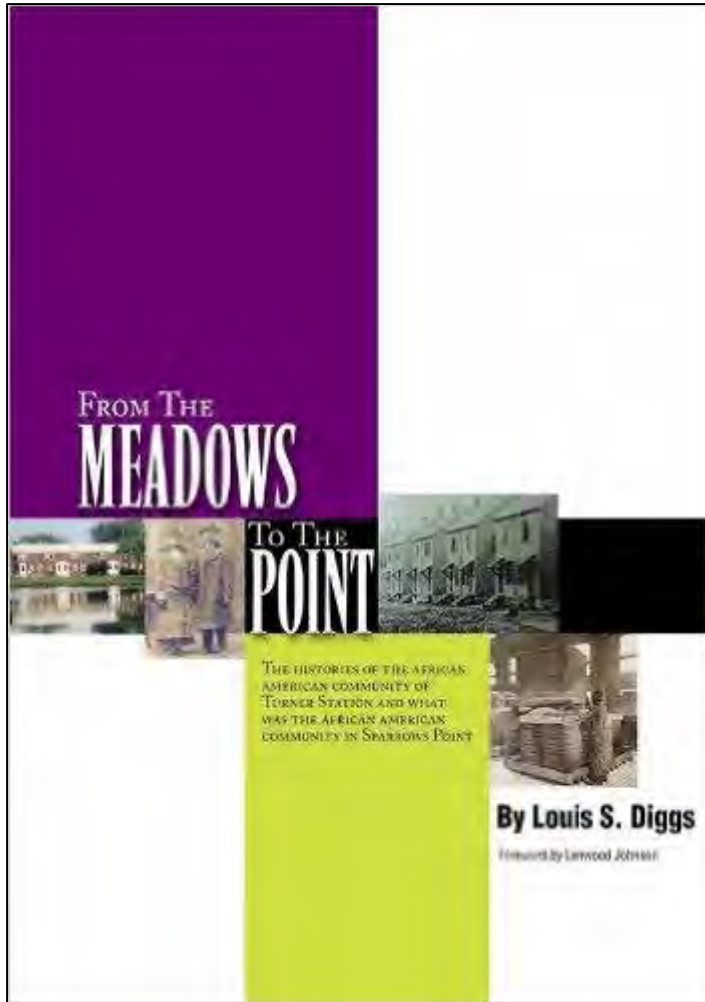
<http://data.baltimoresun.com/stories/sparrows-point-a-year-after-bankruptcy-unsettled-lives/>

<http://millstories.umbc.edu/>

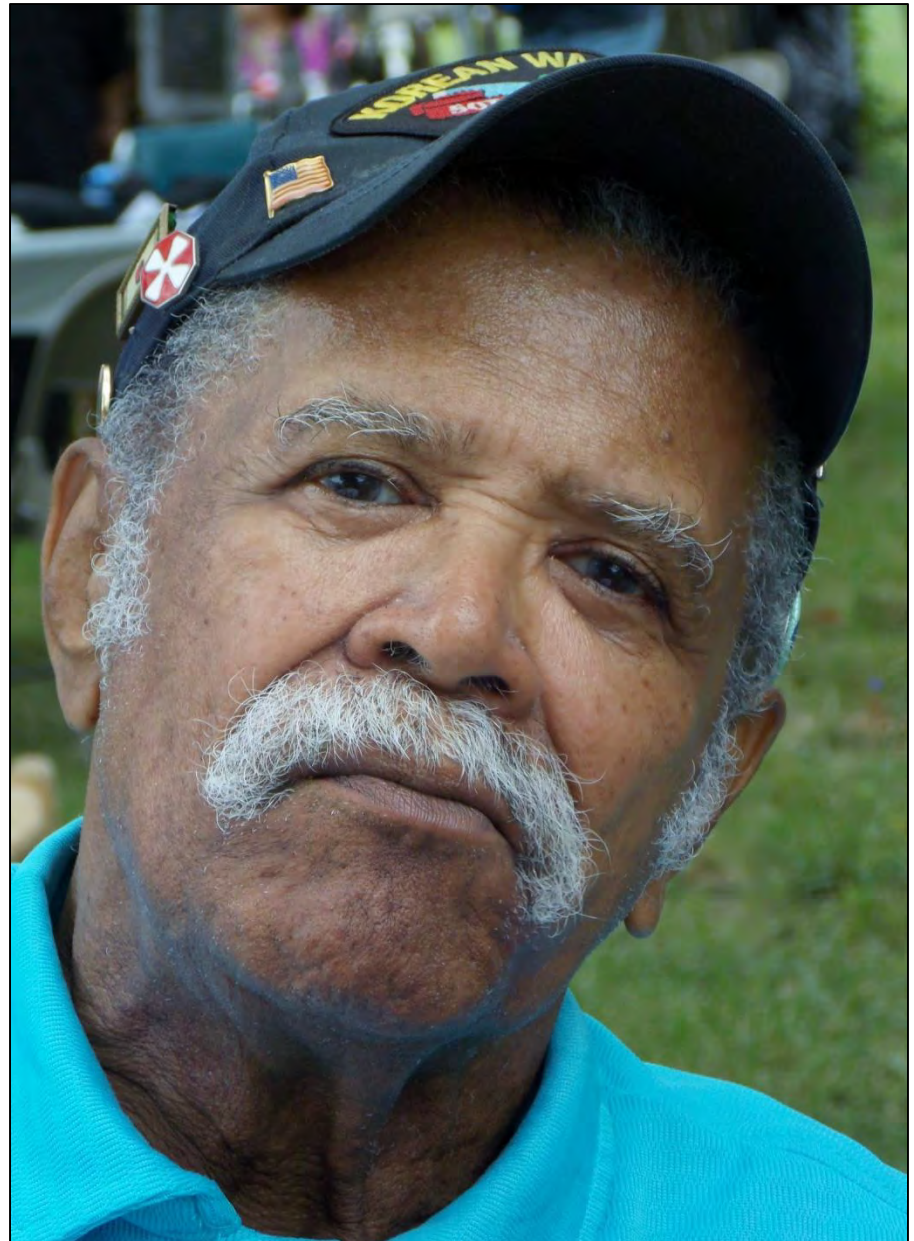
www.sparrowpointsteelworkers.com



The state historical marker for Sparrows Point was unveiled on April 23, 2016. The photo at left had more than 30,000 views on Facebook.



Louis Diggs, historian of Turner Station



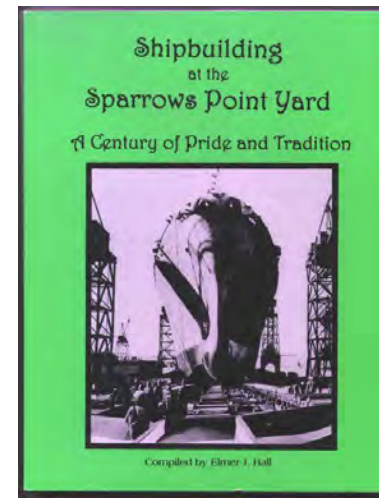
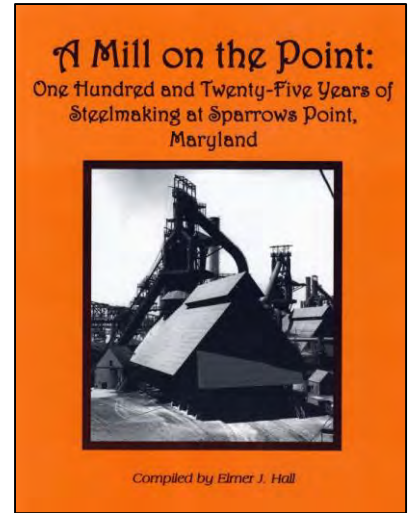
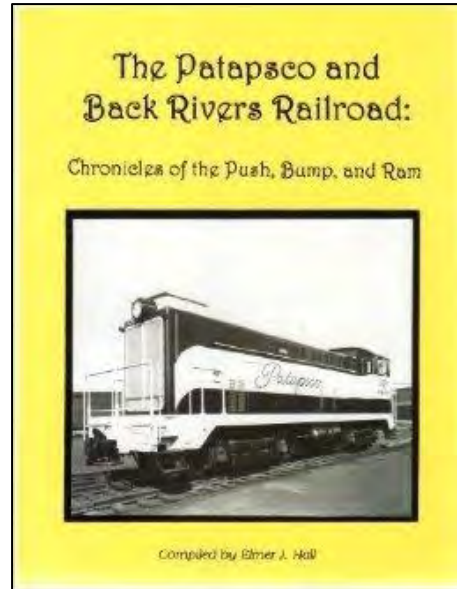


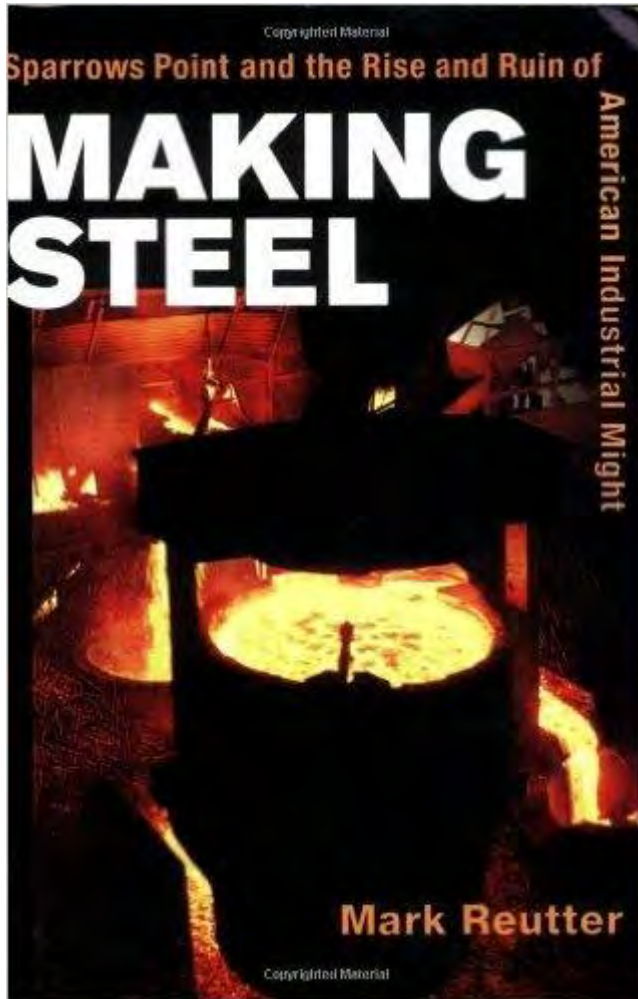
Joe Giordano, historian of Sparrows Point



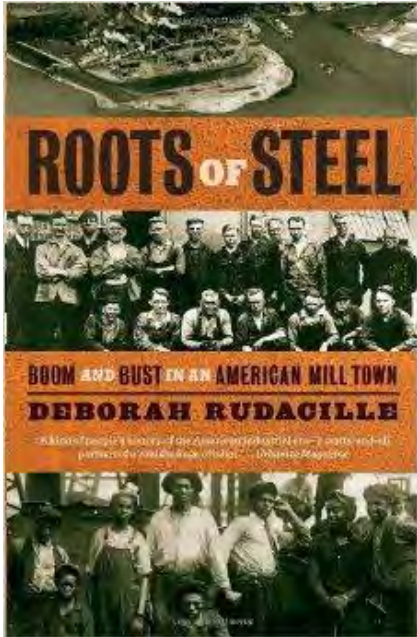


Elmer Hall, historian of Sparrows Point





Mark Reutter, historian of Sparrows Point (with Joe Kotelchuck)



Deborah Rudacille, historian of Sparrows Point



Ben Womer after he retired. The red splotches on his face came from exposure to the furnace heat.

(From Mark Reutter, *"Making Steel"*)

Because the furnaces worked around-the-clock, Ben Womer said, “Many a man who worked daylight on Christmas never saw his children on Christmas morning unless they were gotten up at five o’clock to see their toys when he was ready to go for work.”

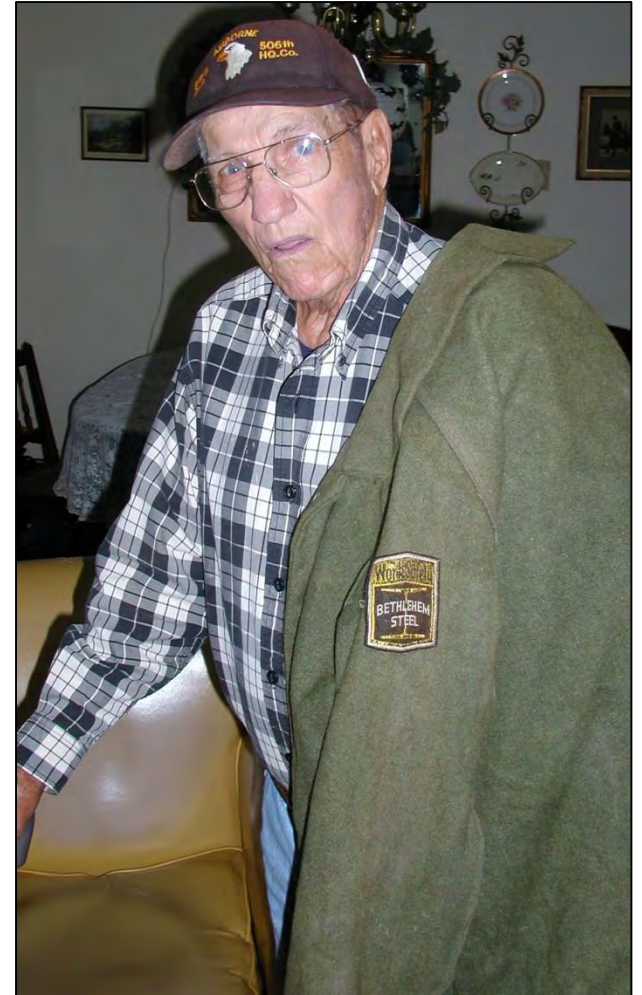
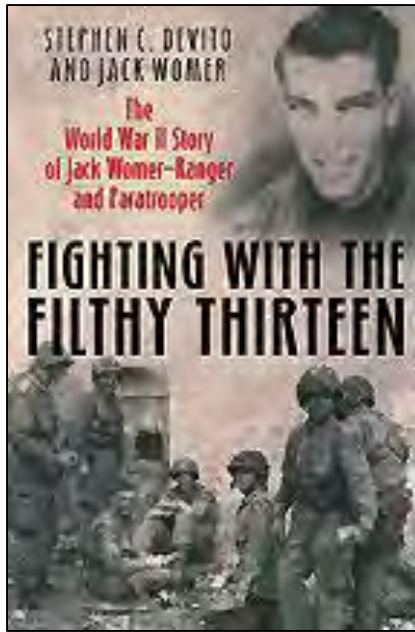
“This kind of dedication could only mean that your devotion to the company that you worked for was your trademark.”



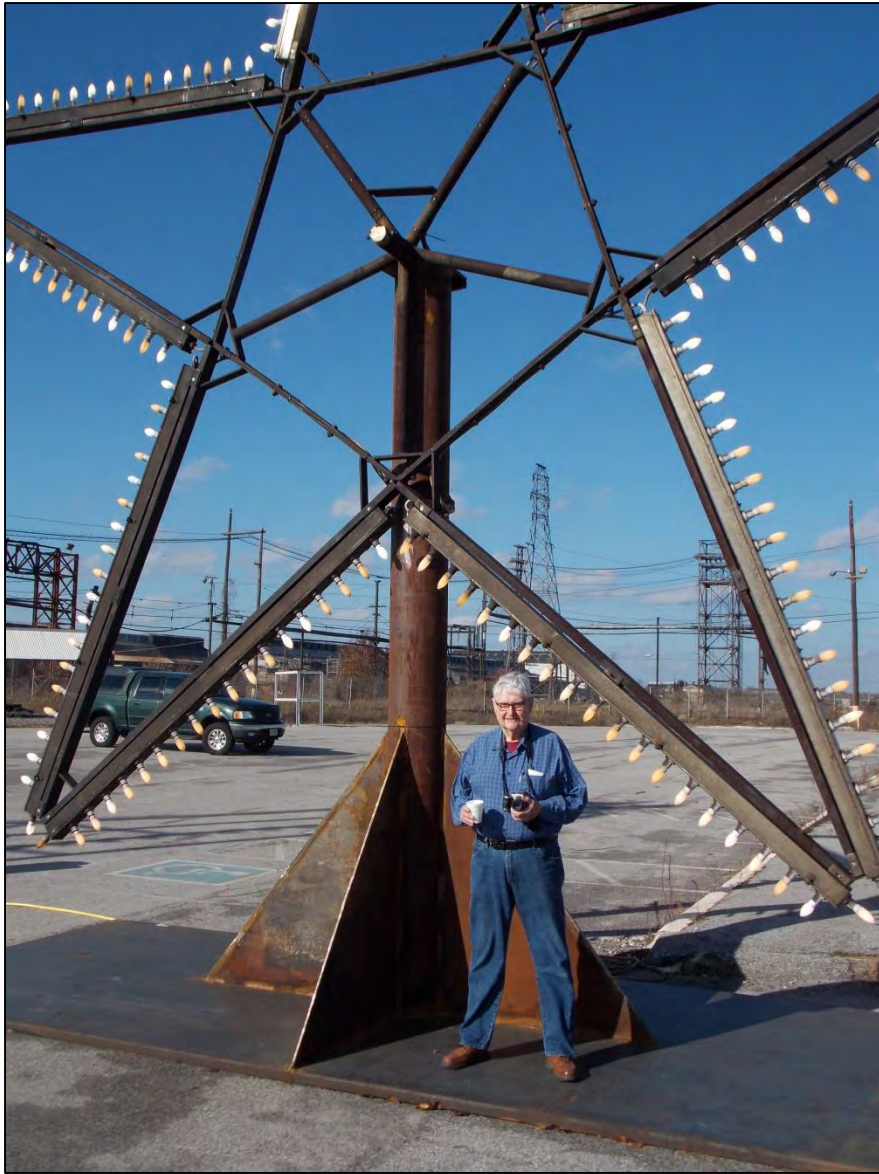
Dundalk Historical Society 2016



Joyce Kotelchuck, historian of Sparrows Point



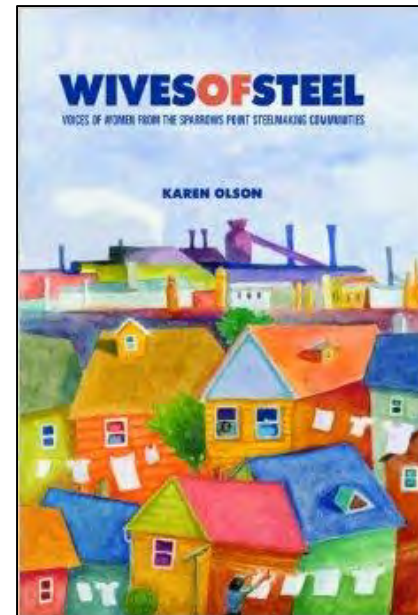
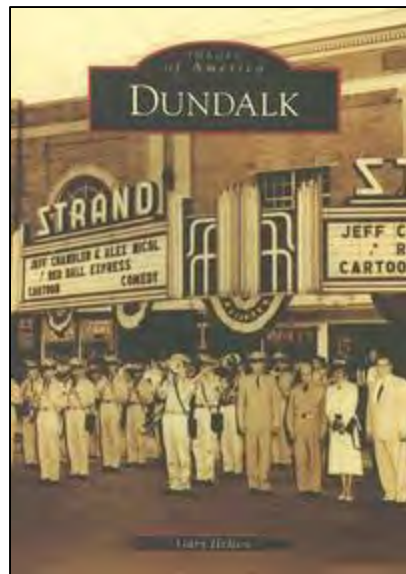
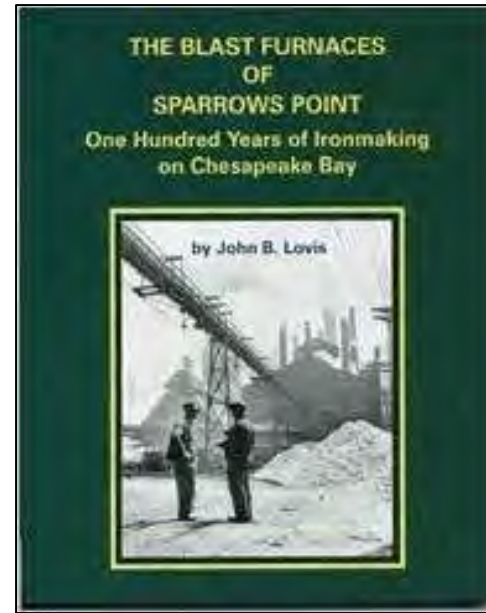
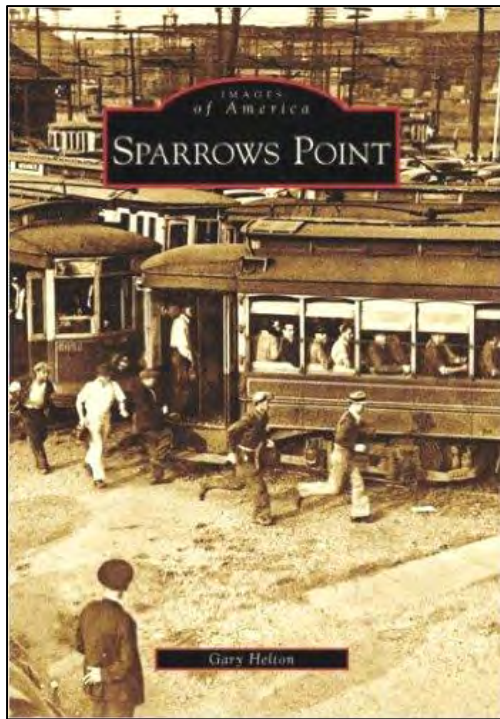
Jack Womer, historian of Sparrows Point

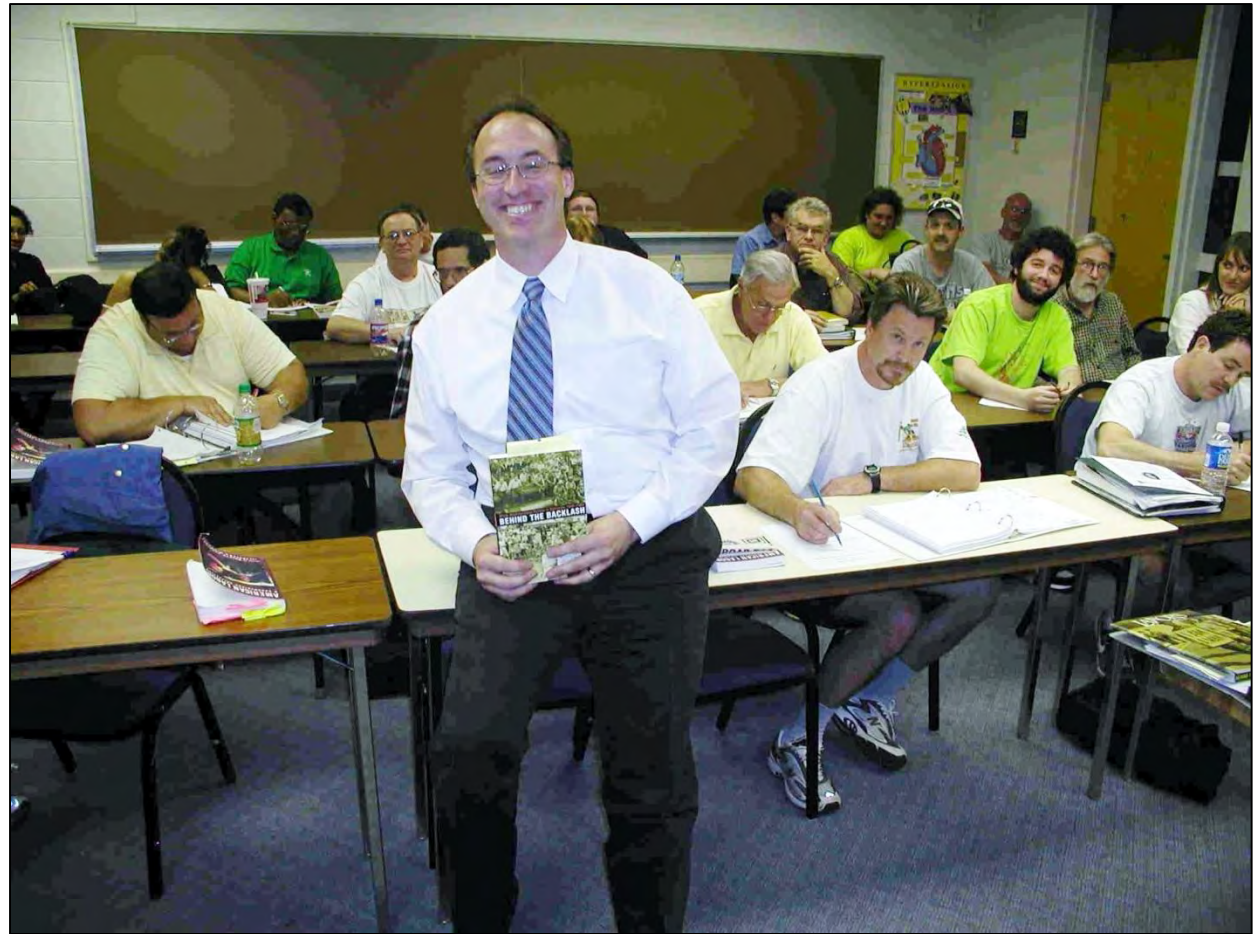
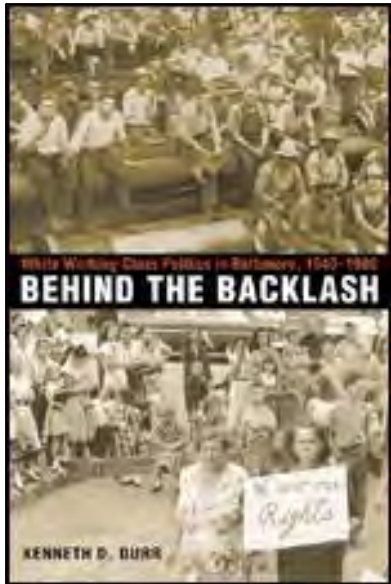


Mike Stilwell, historian of Sparrows Point



Bill Goodman historian of Sparrows Point



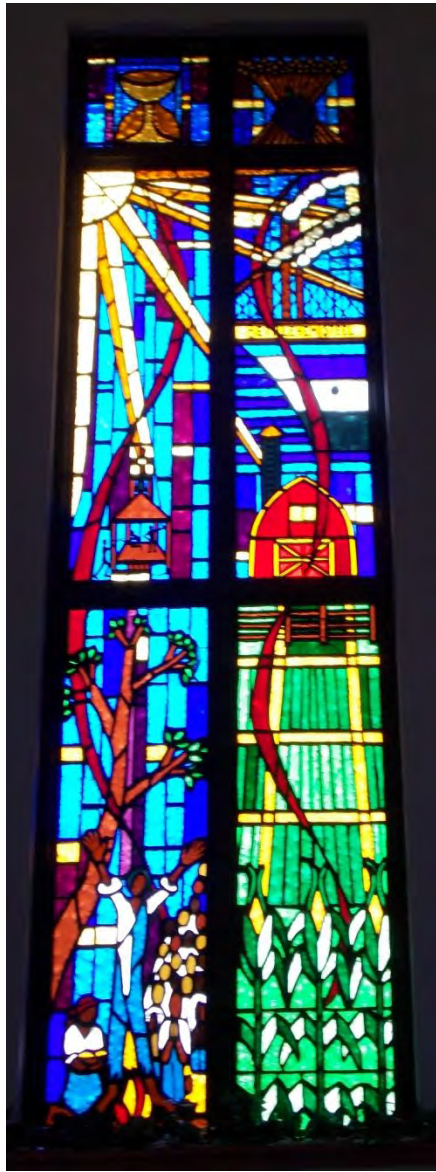


Kenneth Durr, historian of Sparrows Point

Photo retrospective of Bethlehem Steel, Sparrows Point



October 5, 1949—workers wait to get paid during a strike
<http://darkroom.baltimoresun.com/2015/01/photo-retrospective-of-bethlehem-steel-sparrows-point/#1>



New Shiloh Baptist Church--Dundalk





Mike Roller, historian of The Point

