

--DOVER 'FIRSTS'--

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got Jeremiah interested.

That rolling mill was located on the site of what was for a long time after the American Sheet & Tin Plate Co., until 1931. The place is now occupied partially by the Dover city garage, Twin Cities Concrete Co. and, on the west side, a building belonging to General Electric.

The Reeves Iron Co., as the rolling mill was known, was sold to American Sheet & Tin Plate Co., a subsidiary of U.S. Steel, in 1900, during the period of the so-called "tin mill mergers."

In the meantime, Reeves erected another tin mill in 1895 at the site of the present Reeves plant. This plant was sold 4 years later to a company called the American Tin Plate Co. which operated it only until the famous 1901 strike.

When the tin plate firm moved away, Jeremiah Reeves' son, Samuel, and A. J. Krantz formed the Reeves Manufacturing Co. and purchased the plant for the manufacture of corrugated iron and sheet metal

specialities.

This marked the beginning of the modern Reeves industry which has continually expanded until it has become the giant it is today.

For a number of years, it must be said, American Sheet & Tin Plate Co., with its mills in Dover and also in New Philadelphia, was the backbone of the iron and steel industry until the Reeves interests fully blossomed.

Samuel J. Reeves died in the same year that he and Krantz organized the Reeves Mfg. Co., but Krantz proved an able leader and carried on development of the firm.

In 1903, together with Ambrose Beard and Joseph Krantz, A. J. organized the Dover Forge & Iron Co. in a nearby plant which manufactured boiler tubes and other specialized iron products. This plant was purchased by Reeves Manufacturing Co. in 1912, and new mills were erected.

About the same time, Reeves also purchased the Ohio Stove Pipe Co. of New Philadelphia, moved the operation to Dover

and expanded it.

As the Reeves firm began to boom, other related industries also were organized and helped to expand the industrial importance of Dover.

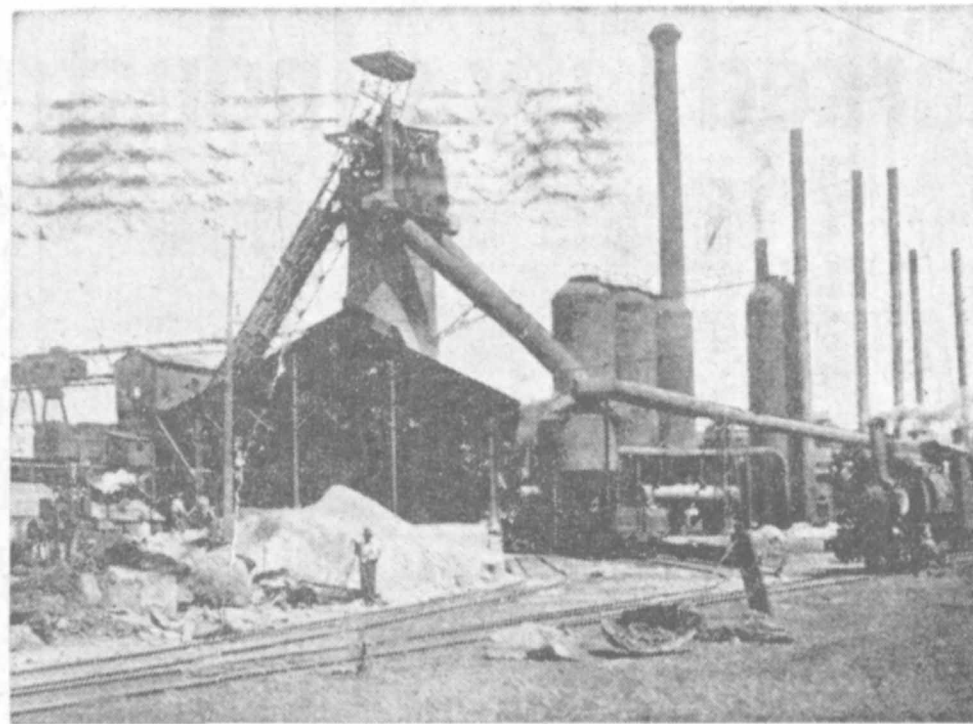
The year 1916, for example, brought 3 new firms into production.

H. C. Greer, a son-in-law of Jeremiah Reeves from Morgantown, W. VA., announced plans for what is now the Greer Steel Co. plant to produce cold rolled steel. Greer had already been an official with the Reeves firm and continued in such a capacity, eventually becoming its president for a time.

At the same time, in the old Boiler Works foundry across from the blast furnace on W. 3rd St., Penn Mold Mfg. Co. began the manufacture of ingots.

This plant was acquired by Shenango Furnace Co. in 1927 and has remained in its ownership, although changing its name several times. In early 1963, with the start of a re-development plan and a new promotional program, the plant was given its present name of Shenango-Penn.

Right next to the Hanna blast furnace, in 1916, Lewis Mfg. Co. established a chemical plant. This firm later became the prosperous Reilly Tar &



The heart of Dover industry from its earliest beginnings in the 1860's was the Dover blast furnace at the end of W. 3rd St. It was first owned and operated by the city, but changed to other ownership and was constantly expanded. In this picture, the blast furnace is shown as it looked when owned by Penn Iron, in which Dover citizens had large stock.

Chemical Co., which helped to boom Dover business until it was destroyed by fire.

The year 1916, on the other hand, brought a double disaster to another local manufacturer which had been one of the mainstays in the city's business life. On Sept. 26, a \$300,000 fire in the "sad-iron" plant of the Dover Mfg. Co. threw 300 workers out of temporary employment.

The plant which was established in the early 1900's by Charles T. Johnson (he later changed his name to Johnson-Vea), had been experimenting for several years in the development of electric irons as a new phase of the laundry iron industry.

Suddenly, in 1916, the firm found that its basic process and methods had been patented by Edwin L. Weigand, one of its own employes. Despite long and costly hearings in court, Johnson lost his case and was forced to pay license royalties on the very irons he manufactured.

He saw his business, which had kept him wealthy with the success of the sad-iron and its asbestos lined hood for many years, decline in competition with other electric iron firms, and finally he lost control.

Dover Mfg. staged a remarkable nationwide sales drive in 1927 in an attempt to re-establish itself through its new Lady

Dover electric laundry-iron.

The firm took full page advertisements in the nation's top magazines and newspapers and erected a large automatic electric iron sign at Times Square that was sensational even for New York. The birth of the iron was celebrated by a big dinner at the Astor Hotel on Broadway.

The company, located on the river on the west side of S. Tusc. Ave., was eventually sold to Knapp-Monarch Co. of St. Louis and operated as the Dover Appliance Co. until a few years ago.

Post-war days brought a quiet merger in 1919, which, in years following, through the initiative and industry of a local mother and her large family of sons would create one of the largest and best-known businesses in Dover.

Alvin C. Marsh, in 1914, had organized the Garber - Marsh Lumber Co. as a retail lumber yard, later expanding it into manufacturing of interior finishes and moldings. In 1917, Dover Wood Face & Lumber Co. be-

gan the manufacture of cold-air registers.

Marsh, in 1919, then purchased the Collier-Bair Lumber Co., merged with Dover Wood Face and built the Marsh Lumber Co. factory still located on S. Tuscarawas Ave.

After their father's tragic death, his widow and her 6 sons, together with F. J. Huff, continued to expand the business. In 1930, the Marsh Lumber Co. purchased an unoccupied factory building adjacent to the lumber yard, installed equipment and began the business of manufacturing pre-finished wall surfacing products.

The separate company, which was then established, became known as Marsh Wall Products Co. and its product as Marble.

Despite a tremendous fire on Aug. 15, 1935, in which the entire Marsh Wall plant was destroyed, the industry has continued on to a highly successful era, in which it is now a subsidiary of the nationwide Masonite Corporation.

(A tribute was paid to people of the Dover community when,

despite bids from many cities throughout the nation, Marsh Wall officials rebuilt their destroyed plant on the same site. One of the main deciding factors for the firm to stay here was the splendid loyalty of its employes.

From the Civil War period to 1905, Front and Factory Sts. constituted Dover's industrial center, swinging out in a triangular pattern with its angle point at the near merger of the Tuscarawas River and the railroad tracks on 3rd St. (Factory St. has since become Tuscarawas Ave.)

After 1905, the city on its south and eastern sides was bordered by large and thriving industries, beginning in the southeast corner with the Reeves and Greer plants and swinging around to a northwest point on the river where the Dover Chemical Corp. plant now stands.

In a business survey made by the Dover Chamber of Commerce at the end of 1929, some 15 major industries are listed, whose combined payrolls totaled \$350,000 per month.

The 10 largest companies and the number of their employes were: Reeves Mfg. Co., 817; American Sheet & Tin, 801; Dover Mfg. Co., 340; Marsh Lumber Co., 191; Monobloc Co. (Maker of battery boxes), 175; Hanna Furnace Co., 154; Greer Steel, 148; Deis-Fertig Co. (Food wholesalers) 58; Shenango-Penn Mold 47, and Hardesty Milling Co., 17.

Among the smaller companies, which are still in existence today, were: Invincible Vacuum Mfg. Co., Dover Tank & Plate Co., Ohio Wire Products Co. and Rees Cast Stone Co.

In a recent list compiled of the 15 principal industries presently located in Dover, only 6 new names occur when compared with the list of 36 years ago. They are: General Electric Co., Harchem Division of Wallace & Tiernan, Inc., Marsh Wall Products, Dover Chemical Corp., Perma-Glas Mesh Co. and Commercial Honing Co.

The Chamber of Commerce report referred to above was made 3 months after the stock

market crash in October 1929, which precipitated the years of awful depression.

Its comment on the industrial condition of Dover reads almost like a prophecy, when one looks back to what actually happened.

"Dover has a number of diversified industries, and a depression in any one line would not, therefore, have a serious and lasting effect on the city's industrial life as a whole, as has frequently been the case where a single great industry predominates," the report stated.

Of the major industries listed, 2 of the largest disappeared from the local scene during the depression years. American Sheet & Tin Plate Mills closed their doors never to reopen and Monobloc Co., located where Harchem Chemical now stands, went into receivership.

Other industries also had to close down temporarily, but within 3 years most of them were in full operation again. As noted above, the new Marsh Wall Products industry came into being in the very first year of the depression.

The story of Dover's modern industry is a separate one, but it cannot be told completely without being traced back to the City of Dover's beginning, because so much of what is today grew from what was yesterday.

Blaze Damages Children's Home

Damage estimated at between \$5,000 and \$6,000 was caused at the Tuscarawas County Children's Home Aug. 7, 1935, when fire, caused by lightning, completely destroyed a large bank barn and its contents of crops, machinery and livestock.

The fire alarm spread through the entire institution and the 105 children emptied out of the dormitory within 3 minutes. No one was injured but 2 horses and a cow were burned to death.

Dover, City For Growth

NOON LUNCHES

Sandwiches - Home Made Soups
11:00 To 1:30 Monday thru Friday
NO RESERVATIONS NEEDED

DINNERS - DAILY AND
SUNDAY BY RESERVATION

WEDDING RECEPTIONS AND DINNERS

REAMS PARTY HOUSE

117 E. THIRD ST.

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