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Raymond Machines Revive Industry In Butternuts Valley

Hydraulics Bring Lift To Morris

By PETER CALISCH
Star Staff Writer

MORRIS—There's a big time industry going on in the small town in Butternuts Valley. Almost everyone has heard of the Raymond Corporation. But what it does, and how it's done, makes a fascinating story.

Ever hear of up-and-down trucks, skid lifts, sheet and strip feeders or pallet stackers? Hello, friend, neither did we.

That is, until Raymond officials explained that their organization has pioneered development of the electric industrial truck and hydraulic elevating equipment.

Its list of clients, foreign and domestic, reads like a who's who of world industry. Says Donald Goetcheus, Morris plant superintendent:

* * *

WE'LL BUILD anything in the material handling field that we feel is practicable and is operated by hydraulic means."

Hydraulics means a $238,000 yearly payroll to some 70 workers at the Morris plant—double shift, too. Next year they expect the payroll to exceed a quarter of a million.

Totaling over 2,500 pieces of equipment, for heavier industries and warehouses, a year, the Morris hydraulics have one thing in common—they're all painted green, in honor of the main Raymond plant at Greene. The electric truck line is produced at Greene.

The Morris plant uses a very large millwheel as a main source of generating power, from an adjacent dammed-up pond, stretching more than a mile to the Butternuts, known as Hargrove Lake.

Thereby hangs some history, and Mr. Goetcheus delights in telling it. Industry, it seems, is nothing new to Morris. This village was the site of diversified products way back before Civil War times—furniture, cotton, for example.

* * *

THEN CAME the railroads. Industries moved to train towns. Morris lapsed a la Sleepy Hollow. But the 20th Century brought highways and trucking. Industry has returned.

Mr. Goetcheus recounts how a cotton factory, of 100 employes and a $1,200 monthly payroll, burned down "at this site" back in 1850.

Actually, the Raymond plant here got its start when Harry Linn, former pony travelling showman, started to make trailer vehicles (Linn Trailer in Oneonta still bears his name) and built the Linn plant in 1917.

An airplane accident in the 1930's, on Patrick Hill east of Morris, killed Mr. Linn, and control of his plant went into receivership.

At the same time, an infant industry was beginning to flourish in Greene, with George G. Raymond Sr., engineer and salesman, at the helm.

He started with the hydraulic lift truck in 1931, some nine years after buying out the old Lion Iron works of 1840. By 1939, he'd patented the hydraulic lift truck.

Along came the 40's and the war years, and the Raymond organization became swamped with orders. After the war, as promotion manager William L. Peck tells it, "we just naturally assumed the leadership in the material handling field."

* * *

RAYMOND'S NEVER relinquished it. He took over the Morris plant on June 26, 1951, transferring the hydraulic operations. Linn manufacturing moved across the street, where it still flourishes.

In the last five years, Raymond sales have jumped 483 per cent. Production is 4,100 times greater than in 1940. Mr. Peck's advertising budget exceeds $100,000.

And Mr. Raymond, now 68, has a family to carry on—George Jr., 31, who became president this year on his father's 33d anniversary with the company; Junior's two sons and daughter, and six more sons from Mr. Raymond's daughter.

Always after new ideas (Mr. Raymond stresses engineering experiments), the company looks to a bright future, with this motto of its objectives:

"To render continually improving services to our customers with an intelligently managed, financially sound, progressive business organization which recognizes its moral responsibilities in all its relationships, thereby returning well balanced benefits to its employes, sales representatives, stockholders, suppliers, community and industry."

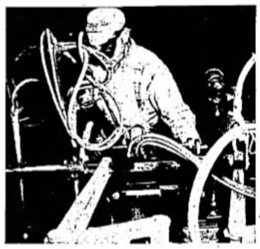
That's a big order, but Mr. Peck and Mr. Goetcheus look forward to it. "We're going into the foreign field in a bigger way next year," they say. "And we've still got a backing of orders."

STURDY RAYMOND PLANT on Lake Street, in Morris, was built in 1917 by Harry Linn for his trailer manufacturing. Raymond bought it in 1951 for company expansion. The site is close to the Otsego County Fairgrounds.

RAYMOND SHOP TALK finds William L. Peck (left), ad and promotion manager, going over charts with plant manager Donald Goetcheus. Blackboard out of sight at right is frequently used for the do's and don'ts.

PRODUCTION CONTROL keeps tabs on daily work. Expediter James Scrivenger, Burlington Flats (left), checks a job with Harold Mills, Morris, production supervisor.

FINISHING TOUCHES on a hydraulic pump are made by Robert Howard, Mount Vision. Raymond Produces 2,500 hydraulic units a year, is increasing.


MAN FROM MARS? No, just Anthony Bettiol, Otego, cutting parts to be used [illegible] for straight-line production. Mr. Bettiol is a planograph operator. [illegible]

SPRAY JOB on a hydraulic elevator platform finds Thomas Erickson, Morris RD 1, painting the machine the Raymond color green, in honor of the main plant at Greene.

LAST MINUTE check on finished products—2,000-pound pallet trucks, pictures Oneontan Wayne Bordwell looking for perfection before delivery.

HEAVE-HO, says Donald Northrup, Oneonta (front), as he and Frank Stull Bainbridge, store 1,300 pounds of steel for future production. (Star Staff Photos by Teople).

Colleges Gain Students

CINCINNATI, Dec. 11 (AP) — The trend in college enrollments "is briskly upward" for the third straight year, an expert in classroom numbers reported tonight.

Dr. Raymond Walters, president emeritus of the University of Cincinnati, made his report in his 36th annual statistical study for School and Society, an educational journal.

Figures from 886 approved universities and four-year colleges throughout the United States and its territories showed 1,612,225 full-time students, an increase of 9 per cent over last fall. The 25 colleges not reporting or reporting too late were chiefly small institutions, Dr. Walters said.

"Recruits for the depleted ranks of school teaching are on the way in encouraging numbers, especially in regard to men," Dr. Walters said.

He put the teachers' increase this year at 13.2 per cent. However, even this increase falls "far short of supplying enough competent teachers and administrators adequately to handle the nation's great host of children who will be citizens of tomorrow."

Dr. Walters said the State University of New York enrollment of 21,631 was second only to California's registration of 38,501 for all campuses.

He listed Syracuse University as 13th in the nation with 10,816 students and Cornell University as 19th with 10,265.

Roxbury

Miss Irma M. Griffin — 4133

The Legion Auxiliary meeting was held Tuesday at the Roxbury Central School. Gifts were exchanged, and Christmas games played. The game committee was Mrs. Harvey Sherwood and Mrs. Howard Cartwright. The refreshment committee was Mrs. Linden Gregory and Mrs. Herbert Hagglenberg.

Mrs. Leslie Furman underwent an operation at Margaretville Hospital Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bertino Jr. of Floral Park spent Wednesday and Thursday with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Weyl.

The Mine Settlement Community Club held their Christmas party at the home of Mrs. Perry L. White. There was a covered dish luncheon, and Mrs. Andrew Sheman Jr. and Mrs. Charles W. Aikman were assistant hostesses. Fourteen were present. Gifts were exchanged, and Christmas games were played. Prizes were won by Mrs. H. S. Van Woert, Mrs. Willis J. Lutz, Mrs. Donald Moor, Mrs. Bruce Voorhees and Mrs. Mary Hastings.

Highest Point In Ohio

The highest point in Ohio is 1,550-foot Campbell Hill, near Bellefontaine.

Body Found In River

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (AP)—The body of a man tentatively identified as Victor Eubank, 72, retired Associated Press financial writer, was found today in the Hudson River.

Police made the tentative identification from papers found in his pockets.

Eubank, a bachelor, disappeared from his Greenwich Village apartment Nov. 18. A widespread search was instituted. A brother, Judson C. Eubank of St. Augustine, Fla., came to New York to help in the search.

Eubank retired from the Associated Press in 1945 after 15 years as a reporter, editor, foreign correspondent and financial writer.

For 15 years he wrote the main Associated Press financial story each day, and his byline was the most widely published of any writer in that field at the time.

Eubank was born in Missouri. He expected to become a doctor, but left medical school to become a reporter with the Kansas City Star in 1901. During World War I he served as a U. S. Signal Corps officer.

Eubank joined the AP's San Francisco bureau in 1921. He later served as chief of bureau in London and Moscow.

Davenport

Mrs. Earl Turner—2383

Mr. and Mrs. William Weaver visited Mr. and Mrs. Walter Weaver at Sprakers near Canajoharie.

Mr. and Mrs. Neil Turner were business callers in Sharon Springs. They also visited his brother Harry Turner at Worcester.

Mrs. Edith Newcomb and son Charles of Gregers were guests of her daughter, Mrs. Earl Turner. Other guests of Mr. and Mrs. Turner were Miss Jessie Taylor and Allan Chard, Bergen, N. J.

Eddie Zemke of Schenectady visited Mr. and Mrs. Neil Turner.

Treadwell PTA Holds Meeting

TREADWELL. — A travel program and colored slides of the western half of the United States, highlighted the second meeting of the school year of the PTA at Kellogg Central School.

A business meeting was conducted by Lawrence Davidson, president and a travel program was presented by Mrs. Harry Barlen, Alton Cole, Treadwell; and Mr. and Mrs. William Wells, Morris, who made a trip west last year.

Almost A Close Brush

In 1956 Mars and Earth will swing almost as close together as they ever come—about 35 million miles.

Teachers Initiate Members

RHO CHAPTER of Delta Kappa Gamma, National Honor Society for Women Teachers, initiated new members at State Teachers College, home [illegible] building Saturday.

Those initiated: Mrs. Catherine S. Curtis, member of the One[illegible] Board of Educ[illegible]; Miss Margaret Baughman, associate dean of students at Oneonta State Teachers College; Mrs. Mabel Anderson, elementary supervisor in Otego and Unadilla, and Miss Grace Mo[illegible]pis, Morris Central School guidance and personnel counselor in the junior high department.

Mrs. Curtis was invited to become honorary member and the other three initiates active members.

The chapter voted to contribute $10 toward bringing a Korean educator to this country. It was announced that Mrs. Madeline Constant, a member of the chapter with headquarters at the New York State Education Department, had written several articles which had been published.

Miss Anne Wilkes read "How Come Christmas" by Roark Bradford.

Refreshments were served by Miss Elizabeth Litchfield assisted by Miss Helen Park and Miss Edith Lane.

Loyally Crockett

SAN DIEGO, Calif. (AP) — Some youngsters may switch from the Davy Crockett cap to the Mickey Mouse headgear but not Laurel McCracken.

The 5-year-old came home from Sunday School with a promotion certificate. Her Mom and Dad noted that her religious studies had been conducted for a whole year under the alias of—Laurel McCrockett.

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