

George Edwards' Scrapbook



Our local power company put in electrostatic precipitators last month to keep our town from being showered with flyash. Back in my kid days factory owners prided themselves on the amount of smoke their stacks belched into the sky. I'm told dust particles often reached several million to the cubic foot.

Makes me think of the ancient Greeks amusing their friends by rubbing silk with amber to create static electricity so the amber would attract straw. That was over 2000 years ago, but we finally put the idea to practical use. Who said human beings aren't on their toes?

"To insure success, pick the right boss and proceed to make his life easy"—PHIL SWAIN, from his New Proverbs for Young Engineers.

I see where J E Chapman of Duke Power Co built a portable power plant. He uses it to prevent costly shutdowns when changing or replacing conductors, transformers, and other line and sub-station equipment. Total weight is 25,000 lb. It's a standard Fruehauf trailer with a war surplus P-51 (air plane) liquid-cooled (Glycol) Allison engine, of 1150 hp. Rating is 500 kw, 80% power factor. Complete unit cost \$22,000, has been used 15 times in past three years.

Last time I was in New York, seems Ben Skrotzki on Power suggested that public utilities build large mobile units. His idea was to have them on hand to supply power at any trouble spots in an enemy attack on this country. Wonder what happened to that scheme?

America has furnished to the world the character of Washington, and if our American institutions had done nothing else, that alone would have entitled them to the respect of mankind. —DANIEL WEBSTER

A compressor manufacturer I know has been building what he calls a "new kind of centrifugal pump" for the past few years. Said his staff has been so busy making the thing work right they haven't had time to do much research.

I told him to write the Office of Technical Service, Dept of Commerce, Washington 25, D.C. They stockpile about 250,000 technical reports that have never been published in scientific or technical journals. "Those government people are not only glad to send you anything they have on pumps," I told him, "but they are even glad to give you technical advice."

My motto has always been to know what others have done before I go stubbing my toe in the dark.

An enlightened mind is not hoodwinked; it is not shut up in gloomy prison till it thinks the walls of its own dungeon the limits of the universe, and the reach of its own chain the outer verge of intelligence.

—HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

It's just a hundred years since Elsha Graves Otis demonstrated his "safe" elevator at the Crystal Palace Exhibition in New York City by cutting the lift rope of an elevator loaded with freight and one assistant. Spectators were amazed to see that brakes gripped the elevator guides and kept the loaded platform from plunging into the basement.

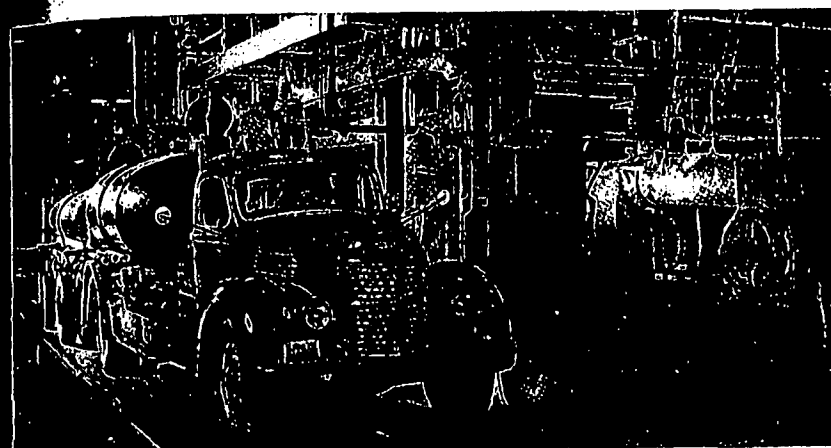
Before that time, four to six floors were tops in buildings. Realtors along Broadway looked at their vacant upper floors, wondering what they could do to cash in on that floor space.

Just proves that most problems can be licked with the right approach. In this case it was safety.

George Edwards
Engineer

BOILER CLEANED CLEANER BY DOWELL SERVICE

Chemical solvents removed 1650 lb. of deposits from boiler previously "cleaned" by turbing



When you consider that liquid chemical solvents will reach wherever water will flow, you can soon appreciate the many advantages of cleaning with chemistry.

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