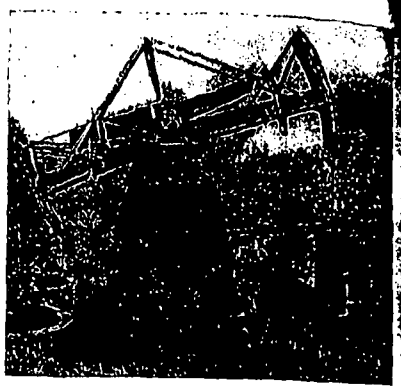
George Edwards' Scrapbook



A man without mirth is like a wagon without springs, in which one is caused disagreeably to jolt by every pebble over which it runs.
—Henry Ward Beecher

I see where Dow Corning Corp is making paints to withstand 350 to 1000 F. It's all done with silicone resins. They say in the near future modified silicones will go into high gear for paints, varnishes and enamels many times as weatherproof and colorfast as our best finishes now.

Already these semi-inorganic paint resins are used on space heaters, jet engine parts, red-hot mufflers, stoves, ovens, powerhouse stacks and process equipment.

How do I know? Like Will Rogers, I read the papers—in this case the technical publications. That's about the only way a busy engineer can keep up with these new developments popping up every day. Fact is, I got this one from an ad.

Fear not that thy life will come to an end, but rather fear that it shall never have a beginning.
—Cardinal Newman

Flying to the National Safety Convention recently, I learned something interesting about industrial insurance. A plant engineer friend on the plane told me that six years ago he broke down and recommended that his firm invest $10,000 for a complete sprinkler system in one wing of their plant.

Interesting thing is that in the first five years this system paid for itself in reduced insurance rates. "And I've been considering the investment for 22 years," admitted my friend.

Here's a case where "a fool and his money are soon parted" just by trying to hold on to his cash.

This old photo of "Fairbottom Bobs" turned up in my album. It's a Newcomen pumping engine at Fairbottom Valley in Bardsley, England. Built in 1750, she pumped water from Cannel Mine from 225-ft depth.

Cylinder is 27.4 in. by 6-ft stroke. Air was prevented from leaking past piston by packing of peat or hemp. Injection jet discharged directly into the cylinder.

In a Newcomen, with piston at top of stroke and cylinder filled with steam, cold water was injected into cylinder, condensing steam and permitting atmospheric pressure to force piston down. Weight of pump rods down in mine returned piston to top of cylinder and action was repeated.

I'm showing you readers this because it's always interesting to see where we power engineers started from.

"Facts are the least developed of all our natural resources."
—Owen D Young

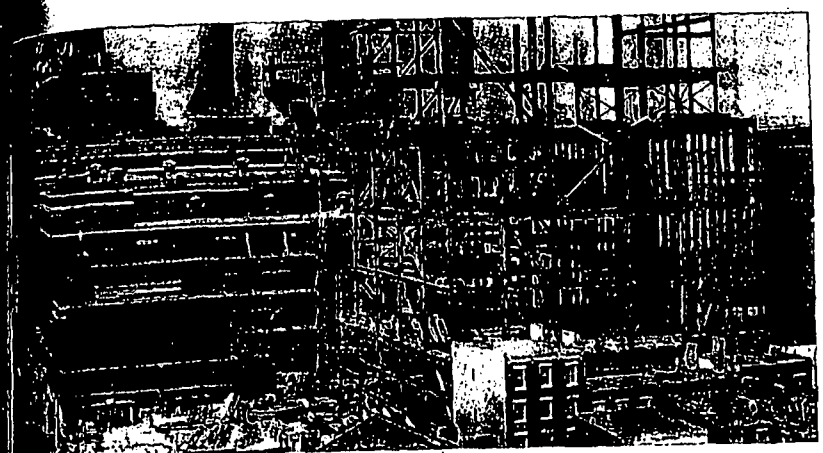
After reading that 16 pages on Hard Surfacing in March Power, I had a talk with a welding engineer friend. He said, "It will be no more than a dozen years until 80% of all welding, whether for maintenance or for production and fabrication work, in this country will be done by automatic equipment."

Sounds like the hand torch and arc soon will be in the same class with the hand file. I remember when the best boilers were hand riveted, hand calked, and all curved surfaces filed by hand to make them a snug water-tight fit. I'll bet the average boiler maker today doesn't know what a hand file is. Maybe it's just as well.

George Edwards
Engineer

MICAL CLEANING REMOVED MILL SCALE FROM BOILER AFTER ERECTION

Dowell service gave quick, effective cleaning assuring more efficient operation



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