

PUBLISHED
EVERY
FRIDAY
BY AND FOR
THE ROPER
BRADLEY
DIVISION
EMPLOYEES

ROPER

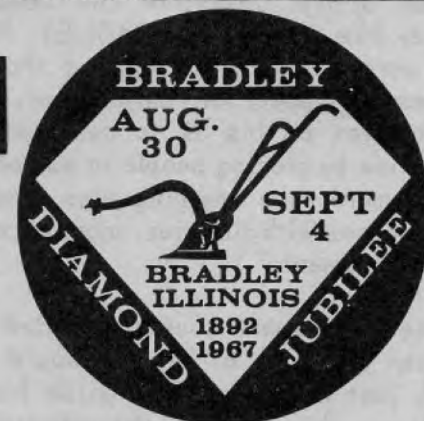
Bradley News

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PUBLISHED IN HONOR OF THE DIAMOND JUBILEE OF THE VILLAGE OF BRADLEY

With fond memories of the past cooperation of the people of the Village of Bradley, and the Village Officials with the "DAVID BRADLEY FACTORY" and its personnel, and a sincere wish for this cooperation to continue on thru the years, this Special Edition of the Roper/Bradley News is dedicated to the Village of Bradley on the occasion of its Diamond Jubilee,

DAVID BRADLEY

DAVID BRADLEY was born in Groton, Thompkins County, New York in 1811, and grew to manhood there. It was he who invented and manufactured the first successful plow of the type that has now become generally adopted. Prior to the first Bradley plow, manufactured in a little shop in Syracuse, N.Y. in 1832, there had not been much change or improvement in this implement for eighteen centuries. Wooden moldboards and straight plowshares that permitted the furrow to fall back into trench behind the plow had been used from the dawn of history, although they were unsatisfactory tools with which to break soil.

In 1835, BRADLEY came to Chicago (then Fort Dearborn) and brought some of his first plows with him, and began to manufacture and improve them almost as soon as he came to Fort Dearborn. There were only about 2,000 people in the city then, including Indians, and BRADLEY used to peddle his plows from a wagon in which he drove across the prairies.

The basic reason of Mr. BRADLEY'S move to Chicago was a contract to build a foundry for one WM. H. STOWE on Polk Street. This was the first foundry in Chicago and was called the "Chicago Furnace". This foundry continued in operation until 1842. Here plows and other Implements were manufactured including founding of the famous "Garden City Clipper" line of plows. BRADLEY purchased and shipped for his employers the first load of pig-iron to come to Chicago.

About the year 1842, BRADLEY left the Foundry, and spent several years on his farm in experimentation with implements, and discovered many needed improvements, which he later developed in his factory.

The first real factory was known as the Furst-Bradley Manufacturing Company, and in 1854, it was turning out three plows a day, In 1884, the name was changed to the David Bradley Mfg. Co. The output had increased to 200 plows daily. The first year's business was \$10,000,

Plows took on new shapes and quality under BRADLEY'S leadership. Constant experiment proved the necessity for changes. Sulky Plows "came to life," stalk cutters, land rollers, sulky hay rakes, scrapers and cultivators were developed by BRADLEY.

New forms of old implements were devised to save labor and expense. BRADLEY KEPT THE LEADERSHIP OVER A LARGE GROUP OF COMPETITORS DURING THIS PERIOD.

Quoting from "Industrial Chicago" (Vol. 3, 1894) — "It is impossible to measure the beneficial results of an active, inventive and honorable business career like that of Mr. BRADLEY. His services are far more valuable to mankind than those of any statesman, poet, or philosopher. The effect of such lives as his is to contribute to the social elevation by placing people in easier circumstances. This, more than anything else, has filled Western farm houses with libraries, pianos, college graduates and refinement."

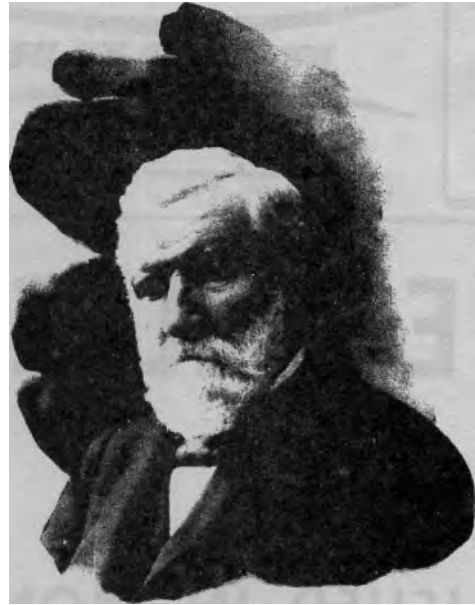
Quote from same source — "Had David Bradley chosen any walk of life, he would have made this mark just the same. But, aside from his business qualities, his general characteristics alone make him eminent."

With business flourishing at his plant at Des Plaines and Fulton Streets in Chicago in 1890, Mr. BRADLEY realized that major expansion was necessary. This astute business man realized that the costs of real estate in Chicago would be prohibitive for major land requirements, so a search for a suitable location was instituted. Close to Chicago, and with good rail facilities, they discovered a vacant furniture factory in North Kankakee. In the year of 1895, the David Bradley Manufacturing Company moved into this plant, and shortly thereafter, the Village changed its name to Bradley.

This business was actively administered by Mr. BRADLEY until the time of his death, February 19, 1899. During his lifetime, he had seen his creation, the internationally famous "Garden City Clipper" Plows win major awards at Philadelphia in 1876 at the Centennial, and at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893.

The family carried on the business affairs of the company for the next eleven years. From the time of the move to Bradley, the firm erected the two major three story buildings and the five story building that are still in use.

The opposite page, picture and text, were "lifted" from CATALOG No. 38 and EXTRA LIST No. 8, DAVID BRADLEY MFG. CO. BRADLEY, ILL., U.S.A. The printed word, capitals, punctuation, and all are exactly as in the book. While there was no date in the book, we are reasonably certain that this was printed in 1900 or 1901.



DAVID BRADLEY.

Suddenly came the summons, yet peacefully and painlessly he passed away. With him the to-morrow of this earthly life has become the to-day of life eternal.

A goodly heritage of moral and mental equipoise was his, and so well did he use and develop it that even one who met him felt the calming and cheering effect of his personality; and, these traits, coupled with strict temperance in all things, prolonged his life far beyond the usual limit, and freed him from the mental and physical ills which are much too frequently found with those who have reached their three score years and ten.

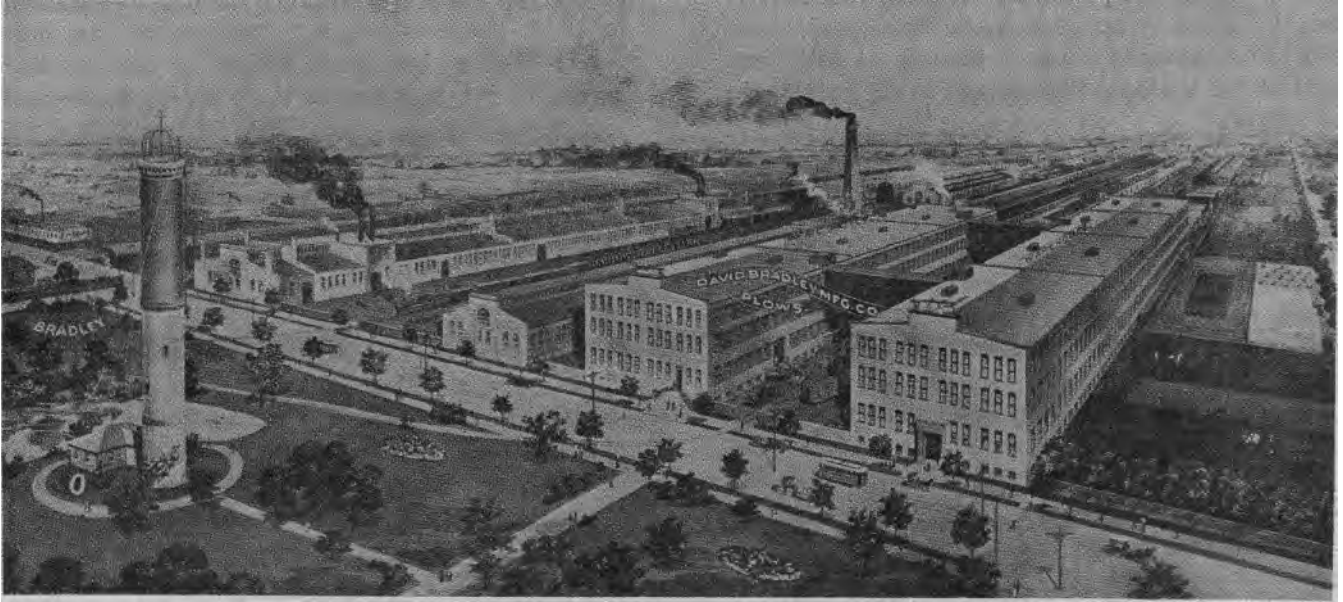
He was at his other as usual, and in apparent good health the afternoon before his death. His passing away was like the falling of fully ripened fruit and brought with it, thrrefire, no shock to those nearest and dearest to him, since they had often thought, of late years, that it might so come.

Born on his fathers farm at Groton, Thompkins Co., N. V., in he grew to manhood there. When of age he went to Syracuse, N. V., where he worked for an older brother until 1835, when he started for Chicago, and, making a good part of the trip on foot, reached there in the fall. In 1840 he married Miss Cynthia Abbott, of Bane, Vt. (If five children born to them, three are now living: J. Harley Bradley, Vice-President and Treasurer of the David Bradley Mfg. Co.; Byron C. Bradley, Superintendent of the Manufactory at Bradley, and Mrs. George C. Morgan, of Chicago, Ill.

"GARDEN CITY CLIPPER" PLOWS



THIS IS DAVID BRADLEY - 1900



The illustration above shows our Plant with its new additions and those contemplated. A better comprehension of the size and uses of the buildings can be got, however, from the following figures and description: (Ed. Note: Don't Forget-This is 1900)

The two main buildings are each 400 x 80 feet, three stories high with basement. The blacksmith shop which adjoins the north end of the west or left-hand main building is 350 x 80 feet, east of and adjoining which has lately been erected a grinding room 30 x 400 feet; the one story building at the left of and fronting with the main buildings is 200 x 50 feet; the foundry 200 x 80 feet, with a proposed addition of 200 x 80 feet more, and the dry house 160 x 80 feet. There are, besides, the paint stock house, power house, coal sheds, etc.

Our main buildings and offices are located just east of the Illinois Central R.R. tracks, a side-track from which runs into our yards, while tracks from the Indiana, Illinois & Iowa R.R. enter at the South end as shown in cut. This enables us to receive our steel, iron, lumber, coal, paint, etc., at the very doors of our warehouses, and to load our implements from our own platforms directly into the cars, under cover - several cars at a time. West of the Illinois Central tracks is located our bicycle factory - a brick building 75 x 200 feet, three stories, which is fully equipped with engine, boiler, side track, etc.

We have lately built a water tower 120 feet high, which holds over 50,000 gallons, with a large reservoir attached, as shown in the foreground of the illustration. In addition to this, and located just North of the smokestack, will be seen another elevated tank, with a capacity of 20,000 gallons, and with a reservoir which holds 80,000 gallons more. These not only supply a very elaborate "sprinkler" system with which the buildings are piped, and which provides the best known protection against fire, but are ample to supply the town also, whenever they see fit to lay mains and avail themselves of it.

The floor space of the entire Plant with its additions, is about 500,000 square feet. The East building is occupied as a warehouse excepting what is set apart for Offices while the West buildings and their Northern extensions and additions are filled with complete outfits of the latest machinery for the manufacturing of our implements.

One of the pleasantest things for us to think of, after being hemmed in for years, in Chicago, is that we have plenty of room here. The ground occupied by our buildings, including yard, is about ten acres, while adjoining our works we have twenty-six acres more.

With plenty of room we are able to make the best possible arrangement for quick dispatch in manufacturing, and to promptly supply the wants of our patrons.

DAVID BRADLEY MFG. CO.

The preceding page as published was featured in the August 19, 1966 issue of the Roper/Bradley News, and this Editor, being a lifelong resident of the area followed it up with these comments about the "Park" we used to have. If you are an Old Time Resident of the Village, this should bring back some fond memories.

Note the park in the foreground. This was one of the most beautiful spots you could ever imagine. There were many large trees, and plot after plot of beautiful flowers. The grass and shrubs were always manicured to a state of absolute perfection. The "crown" on top of the water tower was lighted at night, and, especially for those days, a spectacular sight. This was the gathering place for Bradleyans during the warm months, and you were NOBODY unless you were seen regularly strolling about the park on Sunday afternoons.

Men gathered in groups in the shade of the trees to discuss everything from JOHN L. SULLIVAN to those new-fangled horseless carriages. The women, pushing perambulators with the newest babies in them, gabbed on like (and about) the men, and kept a wary eye open toward the west most of the time, as occasionally (?) a few husbands would wander across the tracks to Tavern Row on West Avenue to "hoist a few".

Little girls, in their Sunday best, strolled about, trying to act coy, and the boys, in their best knickers (You didn't get "long" pants until you were about 18 in those days) ignored "those girls" completely, and would wind up catching "crawdads" in the creek at the southwest corner of the park. They'd take their shoes and stockings off and wade to their hearts content, except when some unfortunate would (usually pushed) wind up flat on his bottom in the creek, good clothes and all. About that time, his Dad's stern bellow would be heard thru the park, "Just wait until I get you home. Young Fellow". That meant that the poor lad had a "date with the razor strap".

"Toonerville Trolley", the old Kankakee Electric Street Railway, ran down Schuyler Avenue, across directly in front of the plant, over the IC tracks, and down West Avenue to Broadway, and then on down that street. We can recall in the late 20's that they ran a Bradley Special every AM & PM just to bring our employees to & from work. The old "Interurban" Street Car ran from KKK to Chicago, and this was the rapid way to travel. What a wild ride that was. Its tracks traveled right along our main building.

We are grateful to BILL LUSTIG of our Engineering Department who brought in that old DAVID BRADLEY CATALOG, so we could gather material for this article.

To provide a firm source and to control the quality of its farm implements, Sears, Roebuck and Company purchased the David Bradley Manufacturing Company in 1910. Under the Sears management, the name of David Bradley became a symbol of quality, as well as one of the best known trade names throughout the world.

With such superb implements as were being manufactured at the Bradley Plant exclusively theirs, Sears lost no time in nationwide exposure and promotion of these products.

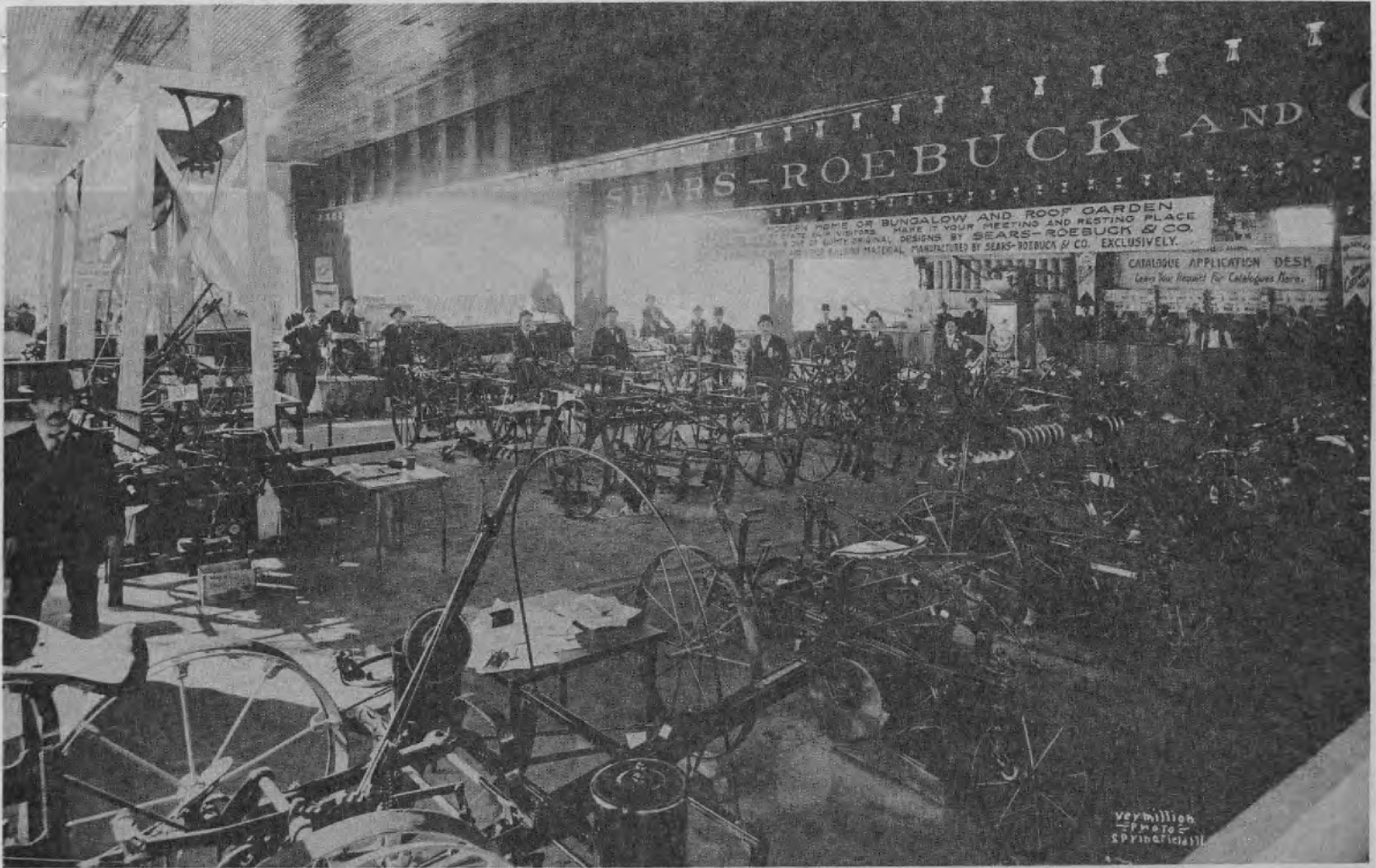
Top of page five is a photo, taken at the Illinois State Fair in 1911. In addition to observing those "Last Word" plows, disks and cultivators, take a gander at the apparel of the persons in the picture. It was undoubtedly the absolute latest in fashions at that time.

Lower picture on page 5 was taken at a State Fair, except it was at the Indiana State Fair in 1912. We note the addition of the hay rake and the cutter bar mower to the line in the picture.

How would some of you "Old Car Buffs" like to have the vehicle in that picture restored and in your garage?

Prices, as we know them, were ridiculously low in those days. Note the following illustrations, taken from the 1913 catalog.





OLD TIMERS



Even in its early years, the plant had become famous for its stability of employment, and this picture was taken of some "Old Timers" in March, 1912.

While we are unable to identify them individually, this is a list of the names of those pictured, and their length of service and occupation at that time.

JOHN McCARTHY	38 years	Warehouse
C. MATHSON	37 "	Plow Fitter
C. DAMLER	37 "	Foreman
F. MATHER	33	Foreman
H. SCHMIDTKE	32 "	Belt Man
F. CARLSON	32 "	Jointer
E. HIRT	28	Assembler
F. GNEKOW	28 "	Carpenter

C. BOOK	28	"	Plow Fitter
GUS BOOK	27	"	Plow Fitter
I. FAHEY	22	"	Warehouse
C. HUDDLESTON	22	"	Warehouse
C. A. VOORHEES	22	"	Blacksmith
J. HEISLER	22	"	Stores
F. GUSTAFSON	21	"	Blacksmith

Fifteen men with a total of 429 years of employment at David Bradley. What a grand contribution to the Company and the Village was made by these stalwart men. From our youth, we can recall several of these men, especially Mr. McCARTHY (father of JOHN, AL, and JOE), who was our neighbor. The McCARTHY residence stood where the Rambo Funeral Home now is located.

EARLY 1900's BASEBALL TEAM

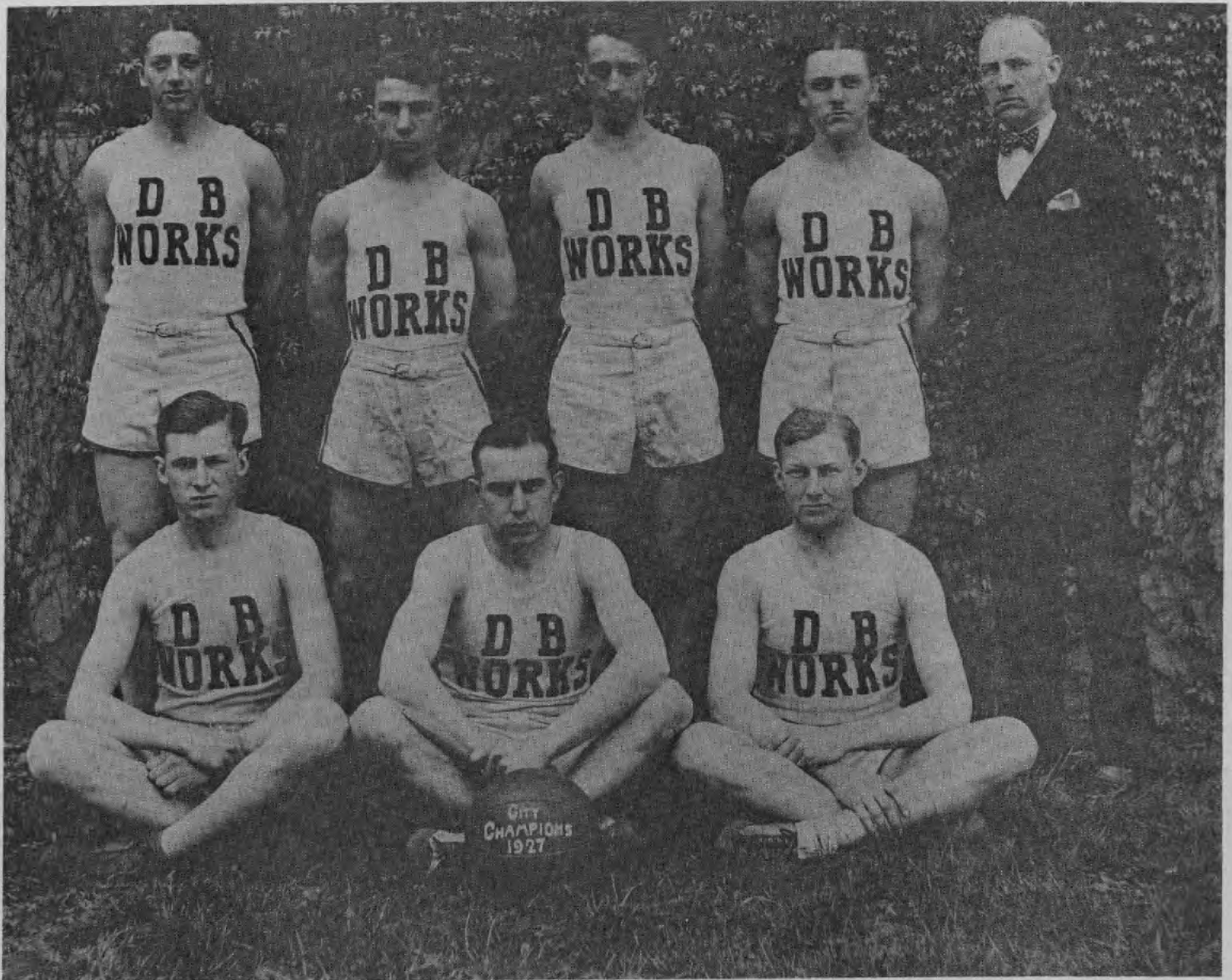


Even back in those days, exercise and a bit of sports was not to be denied, and the above picture of the "Little Wonders", one of the six baseball teams of the David Bradley Factory during the 1910 to 1912 era.

We have the names of most of these athletes, and

guarantee that many of them are men who you know and/or have heard of. Front row, left to right, WILL GORDON, ROY ERICKSON, and FRED THERIEN. Second row, STEVE CURTISS, FRANK DAMLER, DAVE MORGAN, ARTHUR BYRON, ED STELTAR, and an unidentified man. Third row, G.A. HILTY, JOHN "CAP" MCDONOUGH, next man unidentified, BILL HUFFMAN, and FRANK TOPLIFF. Back row, WALTER HEINZ, and HORACE PIGG.

DAVID BRADLEY BASKETBALL TEAM - 1927



The lads in the picture are—front row, left to right — GEORGE McCULLOGH, BOB SNAPP, and the one and only CHESTER "CHET" HELLER, who recently retired from Sears after many illustrious years as Buyer for Dept. 632. Back row, JOHN CAMERON,

who is still working here in service parts, BUDDY GASTON, BUTCH YOHNKA, RUSSERT BOSSERT, and the Manager is the late JIM HAGEARTY, who was a Bradley employee for FIFTY YEARS.

During the 1920's, it became quite the rage to raise chickens. The Bradley Plant developed an incubator that was a great improvement over any of the existing ones on the market, and went into major production of this item. Possibly this was when it was first discovered that the only thing that could make money

laying around was the chicken.

A Brooder Stove was added to the line, and another high volume became a reality. For several years, the production of the Incubators and Brooder Stoves were the "Bread and Butter" of the Factory.

When the demand for Incubators and Brooders fell off, Sears and Bradley inaugurated a program for Garden Tractors. The Bradley Walking Tractor, along with all its various attachments, became world famous for its versatility and dependability. Hundreds of thousands of these fine machines were produced, and many are still in use today,

Coal Stokers were added to the line in 1937, and again the Bradley Plant "hit the jackpot" with another finely engineered, fast selling item, The trend to gas, oil, and electric heat after the War brought about the demise of this production.

During World War II, Bradley plunged into war production with the same vigor and skill that marked its civilian production. On December 29, 1944, with more than 300 of their employees serving in the Armed Forces, the David Bradley Manufacturing Company was awarded the Army-Navy "E" Award. Through the war, with hundreds more of our fellow employees in Service, this enviable production record continued.

MID-30's BASKETBALL TEAM



Front row, l to r, JIM HAGEARTY, FRANK SOVINSKI, BILL BECK, RAY LAMBERT, WARREN BRICKLE, HOWARD HORGSTEAD, SHERWOOD ADAME, and DAN GOODMAN,

Sack row, RUTH COLLINS, ERMA MUELLER, FRANK WASETIS, CLIFF DURAND, CHUCK CONNOR, WILBUR DAMLER, VERNON BADE, and PAUL TOLIUSZIS.

Center "row", all by himself, LARRY POWER.

POST WAR YEARS

After the War, the Engineering Department that had originated in the mid-30's and had been handicapped by wartime restrictions, really came into its own. Farm implements were designed to accept rubber tire mountings of standard automobile sizes, the Walking Tractor was redesigned and became not only the most powerful one on the market at that time, but also the first one to be "streamlined". The farm implement business boomed, and such items as Side Delivery Hay Rakes, Drag Harrows, Hay Loaders, Disc Harrows, Power Mowers (the sickle bar type), Manure Spreaders (we made them but it was the only product of ours that we wouldn't stand behind) and plows were mass produced. The plant produced plow shares for many other firms as well as its own use.

(Ed. note: In July of this year, we traveled to California and back in the luxuriant confort of the Santa Fe's "El Capitan", and we were amazed and delighted to see many of our old Side Delivery Hay Rakes working in the hay fields of Missouri, Kansas and Colorado. They were buzzing along, just as good as the day they were manufactured.)

Of course, that is only typical of the famous built in quality of David Bradley products. Another example, in 1922, E. M. Thorpe wrote from Wapella, Ill., ordering a new plowshare, but Sears could not find one to fit the type of plow he described. Investigation revealed that the Thorpe implement was purchased in 1867, and had been in continuous service for 55 years.

A progressive building program was originated at the conclusion of the War, and between 1946 and 1947, 218,000 square feet of buildings were added to the facilities, bringing the total under-roof area to more than seven hundred thousand square feet.

A line of Dinette Furniture was added to the product list in 1952, and has now grown to the proportions that the plant is one of the largest manufacturers of of Dinette Sets in the country. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent for capital equipment to enable this great growth in furniture.

During the Korean War, Bradley again turned to War Production and, again, made great contributions to the effort with their Shell Line.

A new potential loomed in 1955 when Chain Saws appeared to become a major sales item. Bradley developed the finest saws on the market, and today they and Sears are justifiably proud of their complete line of super-light weight, high performance saws.

The men and women at David Bradley won a National Safety Council award when during a span of from February 1, 1957 to April 8, 1959, a total of 1,887,173 man hours, they did not have a lost time accident. This is an Industrial Safety at its finest.

The famous Walking Tractor met its successor in 1958 when the Riding Garden Tractor became a reality. Thru the vision and foresight of Bradley and Sears, this product has been developed to the present leader in its field. A full line of attachments are also manufactured. The Roper/Bradley Plant is the largest manufacturer of Garden Tractors in the world.

1960 — and the trend toward "out-of-doors" living and eating was developing. Bradley tooled up and went into production of Barbecue Grills for Sears. Ford produced these units in various styles in huge quantities. This line was dropped to be able to utilize men and equipment for other products.

In 1962, Sears merged the David Bradley Manufacturing Company and the Newark, Ohio Company into a single unit, still maintaining ownership. The Bradley Plant then became known as the Newark Ohio Co., Kankakee Division.

In 1964, the Newark Ohio Company was merged with the Geo. D. Roper Corporation, which is the only nationally known firm to headquarter in Kankakee. Although the Roper Corporation is not owned by Sears, that merchandizing giant is still the major customer of the firm.

With the merger, the Bradley Division of Geo. D. Roper became more active than ever. In 1966, Gas-fired Rotisseries were added to the line, and later in the year, the production of Pocket Billiard Tables was undertaken. In the Fall of '66, a new Warehouse was built, adding some 72,000 more square feet of area to the plant. The new warehouse alone represented an expenditure of nearly half a million dollars.

Another 15,000 square feet was enclosed in 1967, and progress continues.

The employees of the Bradley Plant have always enjoyed fine benefits. Under the aggressive management of Roper, the employment has risen from 550 in 1964 to more than 1500 in early 1967.

The trouble with the dictionary is that you have to know how a word is spelled before you can look it up to see how it is spelled.

RECORD SERVICES



A total of 542 years, or 1,174,000 man hours of service is represented by this group of David Bradley employes, who were honored at a dinner given by the Company on April 14, 1949. Pictured, (l to r.) are JOSEPH PAWOWSKI, 35 years; STANLEY BARCHZAK, 32 years; STANLEY KOZA, 35 years; STANLEY STOLARSKI, 35 years; STANLEY IGNACZAK, 31 years; HARRY CREVIER, 34 years; WALTER KOZA, 36 years; FRANK MURAWSKI, 30 years; JAMES HAGEARTY, 48 years; WALTER HEINZE, 33 years; LEON NICKERSON, 35 years; CLARENCE LaGROW, 36 years; HENRY LaCOSSE, 32 years, and ARTHUR MINER, 32 years. FRANK DAMLER, who was also eligible to be in the picture, who was absent because of illness, had 46 years of continuous service.



As in World War II, and in the Korean conflict, again the Bradley people have risen to the occasion, and currently nearly 100 of the Bradley employees are in the Armed Forces, many of whom are seeing action in Viet Nam. The people at the Bradley Plant are proud that our Village was named for their establishment, and take a great pride in being part of the community.

One of the historic and traditional "sounds of Bradley" is the wail of "The Bradley Factory Fire Whistle" in its weekly test, every Saturday afternoon at 5. We doubt if there is a native Bradleyan, regardless of age, who does not consider this as a "part of Bradley",

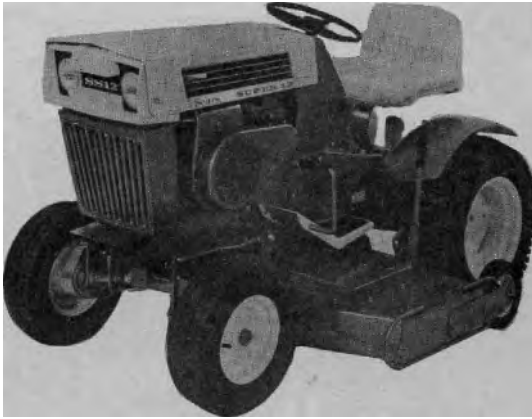
The Bradley Plant has indeed been fortunate thru the years to have men of strength and wisdom at its helm, and the present is no exception. The present General Manager is HARRY L. GRUMISH, who is also a Vice-President of the Roper Corporation. Mr. GRUMISH began his career at Bradley as a clerk in 1939, and except for a few years during World War II while in service, has been at the Plant

continuously. He worked his way up thru the ranks, having been Foreman of the Electrical Department, Maintenance Superintendent, Superintendent of the Furniture Division, Sales Manager, and on to his present position.

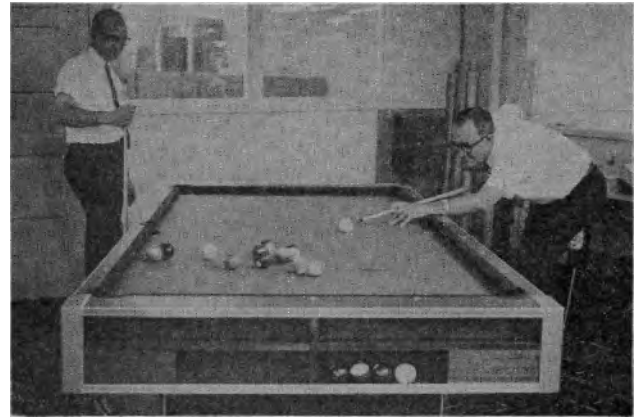
He is ably aided by his staff of MEL BOULE, Production Manager; JAMES MALLANEY, Sales Manager; B. T. AASLAND, Chief Engineer; HAROLD KARLSTROM, Materials Manager; RALPH DRAZY, Chief Inspector; LAWRENCE BROBST, Chief Industrial Engineer; PAUL STOTTSBE RRY, Personnel Director, and EARL MILLER, Special Assignment.

Roper/Bradley is a Union Plant, the shop employees being represented by Local Lodge No. 1184 of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers, A.F.L.—C.I.O. Lodge No. 1212 of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, A.F.L.—C.I.O.; and Local No. 296 of the International Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers, A.F.L.—C.I.O.

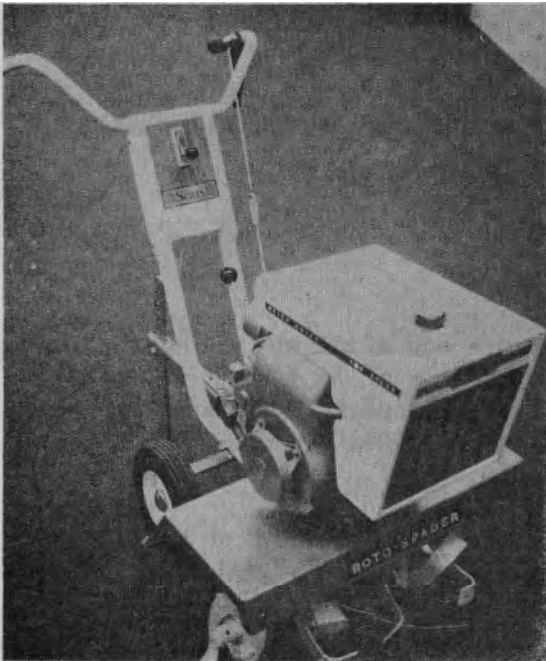
MAJOR ITEMS OF CURRENT PRODUCTION



The Famous Sears Suburban Tractor – imitated by many, envied by all, and equaled by none. This and Sears Custom Tractors make Bradley the World's largest.



Deluxe Pocket Billiard Table made at this plant. Watch for our newest model, Salem, which will be in the Christmas Catalog, and in Sears Stores for Holiday Shopping.



Above – the 6 HP Stick Shift Roto-Spader, a finely engineered machine, as are all Bradley products, that really does the job.



One of the many models of Dinette Sets produced at Bradley for Sears. We are the prime source of Dinettes for Sears, Mail Order and Retail.

Right—One of those fine, fast-cutting, lightweight Chain Saws that have made us so famous in +e field. Gear Drive, Direct Drive, or Electric, we make them all.

