



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Washington Steel Company Records

NMAH.AC.1443

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2019

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Washington Steel Company Records
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1443
Date:	1947-1994
Extent:	0.5 Cubic feet (2 boxes)
Source:	Bethlehem Steel Corporation Washington Steel Corporation
Language:	English
Summary:	The collection contains photographs and safety materials from the Washington Steel Corporation, a manufacturer based in Washington, Pennsylvania.
Digital Content:	Image(s): Washington Steel Company Records

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated by Bethlehem Steel Corporation in 1997.

Provenance

Transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Work and Industry, 2017.

Related Materials

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Washington Steel Film Collection (NMAH.AC.0730)

Sendzimir Mill Video Documentation (NMAH.AC.0605)

Processing Information

Collection processed by Miles Lawlor; supervised by Alison Oswald, archivist, August 2019.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Biographical / Historical

The Washington Steel Corporation was founded by T.S. Fitch in 1945. Based in Washington, Pennsylvania near Pittsburgh, the Washington Steel Corporation was known for its use of Tadeusz Sendzimir's Z-Mill for cold-rolling stainless steel. Instead of using multi-stand four high rolls Sendzimir's Z-Mill used a clustered nest of rolls, like two inverted pyramids (1-2-3-4 configuration). The company won fame within the industry when its steel was used in the construction of the Atlas missile used to launch the first American spacecraft to orbit the Earth, the *Friendship 7*. As the steel industry declined in the United States, the firm was purchased by the Lukens Steel Company in 1992, which was in turn purchased by Bethlehem Steel in 1997.

Scope and Contents

This collection primarily consists of photographs of the Washington Steel Corporation's plant and its employees from its founding in 1945 through the 1970s. Many of the photographs depict company dinners or outdoor events. Some photographs document work within the steel mill. Most of the photographs were labelled and numbered upon receipt by the Division of Work and Industry and have been arranged based upon this numbering scheme. The collection also contains employee safety materials produced by the United Steelworkers.

Arrangement

Materials are arranged as a single series.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Iron and steel industry
- Mills
- Steel industry and trade

Types of Materials:

- Black-and-white photographs
- Negatives (photographic)
- Photograph albums
- Photographic slides

Names:

Bethlehem Steel Corporation
Sendzimir, Tadeusz, 1894-1989

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	Photographs 028-049, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Photographs 050-080, 1947-1974
Box 1, Folder 3	Photographs 081-087, 1959
Box 1, Folder 4	Photographs 088-100, 1953-1955
Box 1, Folder 5	Photographs 101-111, circa 1954
Box 1, Folder 6	Photographs 112-149, 1952-1963
Box 1, Folder 7	Photographs 150-220, circa 1960
Box 1, Folder 8	Photographs 221-248, 1955-1968
Box 1, Folder 9	Photographs 249-304, 1956-1967
Box 1, Folder 10	Color Photographs 305-311, undated
Box 1, Folder 11	Photographic Color Slides, undated
Box 1, Folder 12	Duplicate Factory Photographs, 1963-1968
Box 1, Folder 13	Dinner Event Photographs A1-12, B1-12, C1-12, undated
Box 2, Folder 1	Dinner Event Photographs D1-12, E1-12, F1-12, undated
Box 2, Folder 2	Smithsonian-Ordered Reprints 99-2096 - 99-2115, circa 1945-1960
Box 2, Folder 3	Local Union Guidelines and Worker Rights, undated
Box 2, Folder 4	United Steelworkers of America "Safety in Steel" Draft, 1994
Box 2, Folder 5	United Steelworkers of America Fatality Study Summary, 1994
Box 2, Folder 6	United Steelworkers Lockout Procedures, undated
Box 2, Folder 7	"Environmental Tobacco Smoke in the Workplace" Report, 1991

Box 2, Folder 8	"Noise and Its Effects" Report, undated
Box 2, Folder 9	Quality Assurance Procedures for Cold Mills and Sendzimir Mills, 1983
Box 2, Folder 10	Revised Quality Assurance Procedures for Cold Mills and Sendzimir Mills, 1988
Box 2, Folder 11	Print of Steel Pouring Methods, undated