



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Washington Steel Company Records

NMAH.AC.1443

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Archives Center, National Museum of American History

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Arrangement.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	3

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Washington Steel Company Records
Date:	1947-1994
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1443
Source:	Bethlehem Steel Corporation
Creator:	Washington Steel Corporation
Extent:	0.75 Cubic feet (3 boxes)
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

Materials in the 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
Box 3, Folder 1	George B. Diamond Diary, 1944-1945 Notes: George Diamond was treasurer at Washington Steel.
Box 3, Folder 2	Washington Steel Corporation, stockholder letter, 1945
Box 3, Folder 3	Sendzimir Cold Strip Mill, drawings, 1945-1946
Box 3, Folder 4	Photographs, 1947, undated
Box 3, Folder 5	Union contract negotiations, 1946-1948 Notes: Includes documents with the Washginton Steel Independent Union.
Box 3, Folder 6	Washington Steel Company, engineering report for a steel cold strip mill, 1946
Box 3, Folder 7	Patent summary conclusions re: Cold Metal Process Company , 1946
Box 3, Folder 8	Speeches, 1947, 1968, 1972, undated
Box 3, Folder 9	Washington Steel News, 1950-1954, 1957
Box 3, Folder 10	MicroRold Stainless Steel, advertisement, 1950s
Box 3, Folder 11	MicroRold Stainless Steel, Catalog and Price List, 1960
Box 3, Folder 12	Market Data Recording System, Operations Manual, 1964
Box 3, Folder 13	Awards , Safety and Merit), 1952-1965
Box 3, Folder 14	MicroRold Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip Handbook, 1966
Box 3, Folder 15	Articles, 1962-1997
Box 3, Folder 16	Washington Steel was born South of Columbia by T.S. Fitch , 1967
Box 3, Folder 17	Washington Steel Corporation, Annual Report , 1972
Box 3, Folder 18	MicroRold Stainless Steel Samples , undated
Box 3, Folder 18	I've Been Through the Mill Button, undated
Box 3, Folder 19	Work ticket examples, undated
Box 3, Folder 20	Labels, undated

Notes: Labels include: MicroRold Stainless Steel; MicroFlex Stainless Steel; and MicroFlex Soft Stainless Steel.

Box 3, Folder 21

Miscellaneous, undated

Notes: File includes a business card for Johnson McK. Haning, Manager of Inside Sales; an unidentified slide; and a brochure for the Washington Plant, Washington, Pennsylvania.