



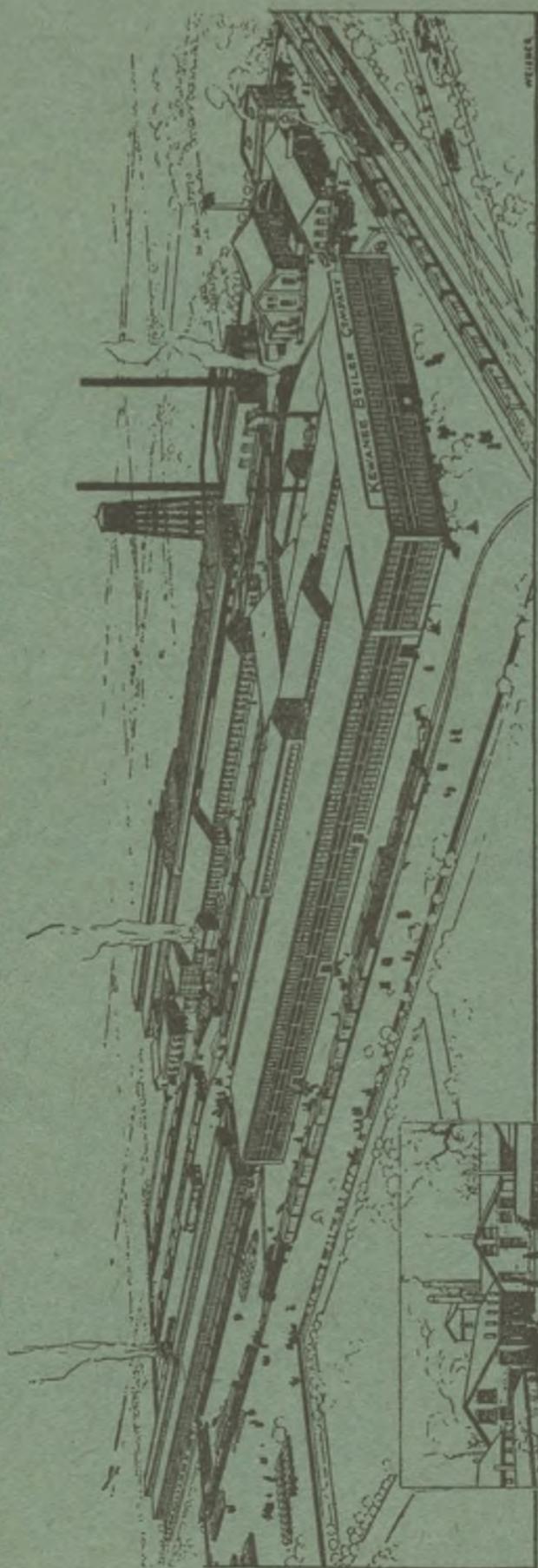
Anniversary
Souvenir



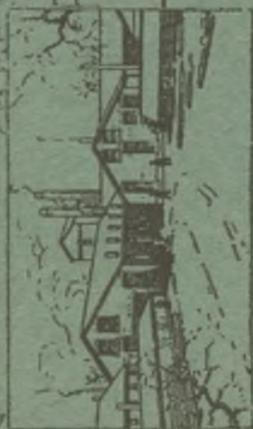
KEWANEE BOILER COMPANY

October, 1920

KEWANEE BOILER COMPANY, KEWANEE, ILLINOIS



MAIN OFFICE AND PLANT 1920



MAIN OFFICE AND PLANT 1900

A BRIEF CHRONICLE
OF THE
KEWANEE BOILER COMPANY

(By J. P. DUGGER, Secretary)



OUR country was still in the atmosphere of the close of the Civil War—the assassination of President Lincoln—the ratification of the abolition of slavery—and the troublesome days of reconstruction—(an atmosphere somewhat analagous to that now existing at the close of the world's greatest war)—when history began to make for what is now the Kewanee Boiler Company.

During the year 1868—(52 years ago)—but only a short time after the tracks of the Burlington R. R. Co., had been extended beyond Kewanee, (which village had for some time been its Western terminal, with stage coach connections to Galesburg)—a shop was built in Kewanee by a man named Anderson. This shop was devoted to the manufacture of “steam feed cookers” for the use of the neighboring farmers.

In 1871 this business had risen to the dignity of the company name of the “Anderson Steamer and Heater Co.,” and in that year it erected a foundry 40 feet by 60 feet and a machine shop 20x80 feet and also installed a 40-horse power engine to take the place of the single horse, which had been furnishing the power for the original plant from its beaten path in the shop yard.

In its issue of April 6, 1871, the “Kewanee Independent” characterized this plant as “the largest factory in Henry County.”

Prior to 1875 this company was also known as the “Anderson Universal Steam Boiler Mfg. Co.”

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From the New England States about this time came Mr. W. E. Haxtun, who became associated with the Anderson Heater Company.

In 1875 the Haxtun Steam Heater Co. came into existence—placing on the market the Haxtun Magazine Feed Steel Heating Boiler, a boiler with which the company for many years enjoyed a well deserved success.

Mr. Haxtun was the designer and patentee of this boiler.

In 1876 the Haxtun Steam Heater Co. reported to the state authorities that it had a capital stock of \$50,000 and used annually 10 carloads of pipe, 40 tons of boiler plate, 120 tons of cast iron and employed from 25 to 35 hands.

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In the Centennial year of 1876 Mr. John H. Pierce became actively associated with the Haxtun Steam Heater Co. From that time on until 1904 Mr. Pierce's name is inseparably linked with the increasing manufacturing interests of Kewanee. Prior to 1876 Mr. Pierce was associated with his brother, Mr. Thos. P. Pierce in the hardware business in Kewanee.

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In the year of 1876 the Burlington R. R. Co. granted the Haxtun Steam Heater Co. its first side track for its exclusive use.

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It was during the year of 1873 that there came from a Kane county farm, near Aurora, Ill., a lad of 18, whose destiny henceforth was to be closely interwoven with the best of Kewanee's commercial, social and civic affairs—Mr. Emerit E. Baker.

Mr. Baker first officiated as office boy for the Anderson Heater Co., at its Chicago office on Lake street, coming to Kewanee with the Haxtun Heater Co. in 1876. At this time his

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evolution seems to have reached the stage of bookkeeper and general utility young man.

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The next four years seem to have been years of development and expansion, as the Haxtun Heater Co. was in 1880 employing 120 men, an increase of 243% over 1876.

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In 1883 the chronicler finds Mr. Baker's name first mentioned in an official capacity, he having been elected a director of the Haxtun Steam Heater Co.

In 1883 the moving spirits of the Haxtun Co. were: W. E. Haxtun, J. H. Pierce, E. E. Baker, N. D. Bailey and Horton Vail. Subsequently Mr. Vail became the Vice President and Shop Superintendent of the Kewanee Boiler Co. in which dual capacity he acted to the time of his death in 1902.

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In 1882 the foundry had risen to the requirements of two moulding machines and heat of 23,000 pounds of iron was melted, as compared with 2,600 pound heat which was the first taken off in 1876.

The significance of the growth of the foundry simply emphasizes the increase of the boiler business, the foundry being only an auxiliary to the boiler shop, as no castings were made by the company except as parts for the equipment and appurtenances of steel boiler products.

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At the annual meeting in 1883 it is reported the company sales for previous five years had ranged from \$63,000 in 1878 to \$386,000 in 1882—this latter amount shows an increase of \$323,000 over the sales of 1871 by the Anderson Heater Co.

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During 1882 Mr. M. F. Moore, present Manager of the Kewanee Boiler Co., came into the employment of the Haxtun Steam Heater Co. where, as an industrious office boy, he began to acquire the training and experience which stands him in hand today as a capable and efficient manager.

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In 1883 the Boiler Shop covered an area of

.....	60"x124"	
Machine Shop.....	60"x192"	
Iron Foundry.....	50"x100"	
Brass Foundry.....	50"x60 "	or a total of
	26,960	Sq. Feet of space, or

6 times more than covered by the Anderson Steamer and Heater Co. shop in 1871.

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Mr. B. F. Baker, Vice President and Treasurer of the Kewanee Boiler Co., came to Kewanee in 1883. Was in the banking business until 1889, in which year he came into the employ of the Haxtun Steam Heater Co.

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In the latter part of 1883 the Kewanee Rolling and Pipe Mills Co. was added to the plant and we find the "old one-horse power horse" of 1868 and the 40-horse power engine of 1871 had been supplanted in 1883 by engines of 650 horsepower, the plant then covering an aggregate area of one and one-half acres.

In 1884 the Kewanee Rolling and Pipe Mills Co. and the Haxtun Steam Heater Co. were consolidated under the latter name.

January 1, 1888, the Pipe Mills were destroyed by fire, but by prompt action and strenuous efforts displayed by the indomitable spirit of the pioneers of the Company the new mills were in operation in the early part of the same year.

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In 1888 the shop pay-roll was \$412,000, which we may contrast with Kewanee Boiler Co. pay-roll of \$1,187,729.00 in 1919.

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In March, 1891, the name of Haxtun Steam Heater Co. was discontinued and that of the Western Tube Co., adopted. Of this company, Mr. E. E. Baker became Vice President, Treasurer and a Director.

In the spring of 1892 the Western Tube Co. decided to discontinue the manufacture of boilers and other boiler shop products. It was in May of this year that the Kewanee Boiler Co. was organized; a company whose ownership and financial interests have ever been entirely separate and apart from those of the parent company, that company having continued its career under the name of The National Tube Company and is at the present time the Walworth Mfg. Co.

The parent company in this year of 1920 is employing about 3000 people and occupying about 35 acres—a marvelous contrast to the Anderson Universal Steamer Co., of 1871, with it 4800 sq. ft. of shop space and 35 men.

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On the initiative of Mr. E. E. Baker the Kewanee Boiler Co. was organized and incorporated May 4, 1892, with a capital stock of \$100,000. The first directors being: E. E. Baker, Horton Vail, T. P. Pierce, August Wagner and J. P. Dugger. The first officers: E. E. Baker, President and Treasurer, Horton Vail, Vice President; J. P. Dugger, Secretary.

During 1892, Mr. B. F. Baker joined the company and was made Treasurer. Since the death of Mr. Horton Vail, in 1902, Mr. B. F. Baker has officiated in the dual capacity of Vice President and Treasurer.

The growing needs of the business necessarily increased the official personell.

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The Directorate of the Company for 1920 is composed of Messrs. E. E. Baker, B. F. Baker, J. P. Dugger, M. F. Moore, H. E. Pursell, W. D. Glidden, E. F. Wagner, H. D. Cherry, C. V. Kellogg, Homer Addams, C. A. Burton. Of these Directors Messrs E. E. Baker, B. F. Baker and M. F. Moore constitute the Executive Committee.

There are 37 men now in the employ of the company who have been in its service continuously for 25 years or more.

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From the official roster since the organization of the company, death has taken Mr. August Wagner, Mr. Horton Vail, Mr. James Mackay and Mr. T. P. Pierce.

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The business of the Kewanee Boiler Co. was begun in the old boiler shop of the Western Tube Co. During 1893 the Company built an addition to the boiler shop on Main street, which is now the west end of the Walworth Mfg. Co. plant; with this addition the boiler shops occupied about 1½ acres and employed something less than 100 men.

In 1900 the Kewanee Boiler Co. sold this property to the Western Tube Co., and purchased 7 acres and erected new shops on its present site.

In 1902 a Cast Iron Radiator Foundry was added to the plant and it has, by normal growth, and steady increase, assumed proportions second to only one other in the world. This department is under the superintendence of Mr. A. W. Cochrane.

During 1906 there began, in some of the principal cities of the United States, serious consideration and studious investigations of the evils resulting from smoke, such as emitted from chimneys and smoke stacks of public, industrial, commercial

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and residential buildings. Especially in sections of the country where bituminous coals are natural and convenient fuel supply, the abatement and prevention of smoke had become a matter of grave importance, as affecting the public's health and the public's purse and comfort.

These investigations resulted in municipal legislation—the enactment of laws that were at once sanitary and sumptuary laws—for smoke is not only detrimental to health, it is an unwarranted extravagance and waste of the people's money and a menace to people's property.

The Kewanee Boiler Co. had anticipated the day that the country would awaken to the importance of this subject and demand a suppression of its evils. In short, this company had already **solved the smoke problem**. This solution was not a casual accident among passing events—it was a logical evolution of the already popular **Kewanee Fire Box Heating Boiler**, which had for many years been recognized as the standard of its type. It was, therefore, only a step forward in good engineering for the company to apply a Down Draft Grate in the furnace of this Boiler (of special proportions and improved construction, to attract international recognition of the **Kewanee Down Draft Smokeless Steel Fire Box Heating Boiler**, a boiler now approved by the highest engineering authorities and adopted by discriminating Architects, Owners, and Tradesmen throughout the United States and the Dominion of Canada.

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It was in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Company's removal to the present site—of its remarkable growth and increase in property, equipment, manpower, production and patronage that the company was prompted to make this an occasion of reunion and felicitations with many of our old and new customers and friends. Friends—many with whom we have shared the ups and downs, the bright days and the cloudy days, the hopes and the disappointments, the little failures and

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the little successes of daily life, which have been inevitably incident to a career of 28 years of upbuilding this institution.

The company has a plant occupying today 32 acres, employing 1100 people, served by a power plant of 2500 nominal horse-power, a company of \$2,500,000 capitalization, with an annual production value for many years, expressed in seven figures.

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In conclusion, I would refer particularly to one outstanding epoch in the company's career—the remarkable, timely and effective assistance it rendered to the United States Government during the stress of the war in 1917 and 1918.

The fabrication and prompt delivery of 19,410 Boilers, Heaters and Tanks during the 19 months of war activities stands as a heritage of efficiency, accomplishment and patriotism. This heritage the present administration of the Kewanee Boiler Co. will leave for the retrospect and pride of its officers and employes in the generations yet to come.



NOTE

For some of the early data the writer of this sketch gratefully acknowledges indebtedness to Mr. John C. Bannister and Mr. Leo H. Lowe.