Pottstown Machine Company Photographs
(circa 1900-1932)

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 Call No.: SC Photo 0003
 5 Boxes; 366 Photographs

Abstract:

Pottstown Machine Company Photographs (circa 1900-1932) contains 366 photographs, one advertisement, and an inventory. Each of these items relate to the Pottstown Machine Company, Pottstown, Pennsylvania. The subjects of the photographs are the various machines the company manufactured. Some include the interior of the company’s buildings and/or personnel. The advertisement includes a photograph of a man using one of the machines and a short description of the machine. The list contains descriptions of some of the photographs (see Boxes 4-5.)

The collection was acquired by Lehigh University’s Special Collections in November, 2006.
**Contact Information:**
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**Processed by:**
Erin K. Martell

**Repository:**
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**Creator:**
Pottstown Machine Company (Pottstown, Pennsylvania)

(Several photographs were stamped or written on the back with different names. These may have been the names of photographers or other companies. They are listed below.)

The Arrow System
W.H. Barber
Davis Studios C. D. Hilles, Prop., Pottstown, PA
Artist Charge
W.N. Jennings Photography, 10 South 18th St. Phila., PA
General Electric (G.E.)
Southern Fittings & Foundry Co.
The Strong, Carlisle and Hammond Co.
Title:
Pottstown Machine Company Photographs (circa 1900-1932)

Restrictions to Access:
This collection is open for research.

Preferred Citation:
[Identification of item], Pottstown Machine Company Photographs (circa 1900-1932), SC Photo 0003, Special Collections, Linderman Library, Lehigh University, Bethlehem PA

Copyright Notice:
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Historical Sketch:
The Pottstown Machine Company was founded in 1895 by John R. Saylor. It was located at Rohland Street and the Reading Railroad on a five-acre piece of land. From the start, the company “specialized in general machinery-service work, and in the production of gray-iron castings.” (Chancellor 98) It also serviced “narrow-gauge locomotives for the Eastern Steel Company; as well as general service work for the steel and wrought-iron industries of Pottstown” throughout its earlier years. (Chancellor 98)

During the early 1900s, the company started to manufacture fitting-tapping machines and other “specialized tools for threading, tapping, and other operations on pipe fittings, valves, electrical fittings, and similar products.” (Chancellor 98) This became the primary work of the company for many years, which led to the development and use of the term “Pottstown tappers” around the world. These specialized tools were utilized by important local firms, along with others in the United States, Canada, Mexico, some South American countries, England, Palestine, South Africa, Australia, and many countries in Europe.

Beyond these specialized tools, the company provided service and foundry work for many principal industries both in Pottstown and surrounding areas. Throughout both World Wars, the company produced “heavy-duty latches for turning shells, along with
other equipment for military use.” (Chancellor 99) As of 1953, the company had “approximately 100 employees, and included in its facilities are a gray-iron foundry, pattern shop, forge and heat-treating shop, and machine shops.” (Chancellor 99) Saylor was president and owner of the company from 1895 until his death in October, 1926. His widow, Mrs. Elizabeth E. Saylor succeeded him as president. The company was formally incorporated in July, 1926.


**Biographical Sketch:**

John R. Saylor was the founder, owner and president of the Pottstown Machine Company. Saylor was born on February 4, 1862 in Parkerford, PA. He obtained trade training as a machinist from the Ellis Keystone Agricultural Works in Pottstown, PA. He then went on to work for fifteen years at the Baldwin Locomotive Works in Philadelphia. Saylor was responsible for constructing the Baldwin exhibit for the World’s Fair, held in Chicago in 1893. In 1895, he started his own business called the Pottstown Machine Company. He was elected into the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in August, 1917. The company was formally incorporated in July, 1926. Saylor died on October 21, 1926 in his Pottstown home. Mrs. Elizabeth E. Saylor succeeded him as president of the company.


Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains 366 photographs, a four-page inventory, and one advertisement. The photographs are black and white and vary in size. Almost all of the photographs are of machines manufactured by the company. Several include the interior of the company’s buildings and/or personnel. Many of the photographs have written and/or stamped information on the front and/or back. This information includes company names (possibly photographers or purchasers) and/or information about the actual machines. Several of the photographs include a detailed caption, date and emblem from the General Electric Publicity Department. Part of the collection is an album that may have been used as a catalog. This album included four leaves of a typed list describing items in the photographs and a 5.75” x 6.75” advertisement piece showing a photograph of a man working on a machine and a written description of the machine. There are also two oversize photographs pasted on cardboard backings.

Organization of the Content:

The Pottstown Machine Company collection has been organized based on the manner in which it was received. There were five groups of photographs, which appeared to be arranged by size, and one album of photographs, which appear to have been for a catalog of the company’s products. All items in the collection have been placed in protective sleeves and divided into five different boxes and two envelopes. The album was taken apart and put into sleeves in the exact same order, in the interest of preservation. The five items that accompanied the album are stored in the beginning of Box 4. The two oversize photographs are stored in separate envelopes.

Online Catalog Terms:
Pottstown Machine Company
Strong, Carlisle & Hammond Company (Cleveland, Ohio)
Saylor, John R.
Jennings, William N.
General Electric
Photography, Industrial
Industrial Equipment – Photographs
Machine Shops – Photographs
Machine Shops – Pictorial Works
Automatic Machinery
Machine – tools
Metal-cutting -- Equipment and supplies -- Photographs
Taps and dies -- Photographs
Spindles (Machine-tools) -- Photographs
Spindles (Machine-tools) -- Equipment and supplies -- Photographs

Detailed Description of Collection:

Box 1:

This box contains seventy-nine 3.75” x 4.5”, sixty 6.5” x 4.5”, four 5.5” x 7”, and twelve 7.5” x 9.5” photographs. Several of the photographs have stamped names and/or written descriptions of the machine(s). Eight of the 7.5” x 9.5” photographs, in particular, have detailed captions, dates, and a stamp from the General Electric Publicity Department. Some of the photographs also include the interior of the building and/or personnel. Most of the descriptions provided below are copied directly from the photographs. When information was copied directly from a photograph, the original wording and capitalizations were maintained.

01.01

01.02  4 Spindle-Union Nut Ream. & Tapp. Machine

01.03

01.04  4 Spindle-Union Nut Ream. & Tapp. Machine
Southern Fittings & Foundry Co.
1 ¼ - 3 way Automatic Tapper - with Friction Clutch Rear View
1 ¼ - Three way – Auto Tapper – Friction Clutch; Pottstown Machine Co.;
Magazine not Shown
1 ¼ - Three way – Auto Tapper – Friction Clutch; Pottstown Machine Co.;
Magazine not Shown
Special 5 Station Reaming & Threading
Machine Rear View
The Arrow System→Superior Quality
The Arrow System→Superior Quality
The Arrow System→Superior Quality; Ward 1
5 Station – 4 Spindle – Reaming & Tapping Machine Rear View
Person also in photograph
2 Unit Group of 1” Conduit Body Tapping Machines Front View
2 Spindle Reaming and Threading Machine Left Rear View
01.31 W.H. Barber 9/12/38; People and interior of building also in photograph
01.32 W.H. Barber 9/12/38; People and interior of building also in photograph
01.33 W.H. Barber 9/12/38; Person and interior of building also in photograph
01.34 W.H. Barber 9/12/38; People and interior of building also in photograph
01.35
01.36 ¾” Fic. Auto. Tapping Machine Left Side View
01.37 W.H. Barber 9/12/38 Interior of building also in photograph
01.38 W.H. Barber 9/12/38; People and interior of building also in photograph
01.39
01.40
01.41
01.42 1” – Four Spindle – Union Nut – Ream. & Tapp. Mach.
01.43 The Arrow System→Superior Quality
01.44
01.45
01.46
01.47 1” – 4 Spindle Automatic Bushing Machine with Friction Clutch Right

Front View
2” – Five way Tapper

2 Unit Group of 1 ¼” Three way – Automatic – Magazine Fed Fitting

Tapping Machines

1 ¼” Three way – Auto. Tapper – Friction Clutch; Magazine not shown

1” – 4 Spindle Automatic Bushing Machine with Friction Clutch Right

Rear View

1 ¼” Three way – Auto. Tapper – Friction Clutch; Magazine not shown

4 Spindle – Union Nut – Ream. & Tapp. Machine

The Arrow System ➔ Superior Quality

5 Station – 4 Spindle – Reaming & Tapping Machine Front View
01.69

01.70

01.71  The Arrow System → Superior Quality

01.72

01.73  Person also in photograph

01.74

01.75  1 ¼” Wide Range – Reversing Motor Tapper Rear View

01.76

01.77

01.78  1 ¼” Wide Range – Reversing Motor Tapper Rear View

01.79  Interior also in photograph

01.80

01.81  John R. Saylor, Prop.; 3 Unit 2” Tapping Machine

01.82  John R. Saylor, Prop.

01.83

01.84  John R. Saylor, Prop.

01.85  John R. Saylor, Prop.

01.86  for Tees 1 ¼”

01.87  John R. Saylor, Prop.

01.88

01.89

01.90

01.91  John R. Saylor, Prop.
01.92  John R. Saylor, Prop.
01.93
01.94  John R. Saylor, Prop.
01.95
01.96  John R. Saylor, Prop.
01.92  John R. Saylor, Prop.
01.93
01.94  John R. Saylor, Prop.
01.95
01.96  John R. Saylor, Prop.
01.97  John R. Saylor, Prop.
01.98  John R. Saylor, Prop.
01.99
01.100
01.101  John R. Saylor, Prop.
01.102  2 – Unit 6” Single Spindle Tapper
01.103
01.104
01.105
01.106
01.107
01.108  John R. Saylor, Prop.
01.109
01.110

01.111  John R. Saylor, Prop.

01.112

01.113

01.114

01.115  John R. Saylor, Prop.; Interior also in photograph

01.116  Interior also in photograph

01.117  John R. Saylor, Prop.; Interior also in photograph; Bushing Machine

01.118  Interior also in photograph

01.119  John R. Saylor, Prop.; 3 Unit 2” Tapping Machine

01.120  Interior also in photograph

01.121  Interior also in photograph

01.122  John R. Saylor, Prop.; Interior also in photograph

01.123  John R. Saylor, Prop.; Interior also in photograph; 5 Unit 1” Tapping Machine

01.124  Interior also in photograph

01.125  Interior also in photograph

01.126  Interior also in photograph

01.127  Interior also in photograph

01.128  Interior also in photograph

01.129  Interior also in photograph

01.130  John R. Saylor, Prop.; Interior also in photograph

01.131  John R. Saylor, Prop.; Interior also in photograph
Some of the following photographs include captions by G.E. Publicity Department:


G.E. Publicity Department; 479374; 8/18/31; 4 – Way Fitting Tapping Machine

G.E. Publicity Department; 479374; 8/18/31; 4 - Way Fitting Tapping Machine
01.149  G.E. Publicity Department; 479316; 8/13/31; 3 – Unit Group of 1.25 – in.
(Photograph includes a caption)

01.150  G.E. Publicity Department; 479316; 8/13/31; 3 – Unit Group of 1.25 – in.
(Photograph includes a caption)

01.151

01.152

01.153  G.E. Publicity Department; 479372; 8/18/31; 4 – Way Fitting Tapping
Machine (Photograph includes a caption)

01.154  G.E. Publicity Department; 479372; 8/18/31; 4 – Way Fitting Tapping
Machine (Photograph includes a caption)

01.155  G.E. Publicity Department; 479373; 8/13/31; 3 – Unit Group of 1.25 – in.
(Photograph includes a caption)

**Box 2:**

This box contains thirty-five 7.25” x 9.25” photographs. Several of the photographs have stamped names and/or written descriptions of the machine. Some of the photographs also include the interior of the building and/or personnel. Most of the descriptions provided below are copied directly from the photographs. When information was copied directly from a photograph, the original wording and capitalizations were maintained.

02.156
Interior also in photograph

Received May 22, 1928 The Strong, Carlisle & Hammond Co.

2” Combination Union Machine Nut, Head and Tail Units; Artist Charge

Artist Charge; Four Unit 1 ¼” Three – Way Automatic Tapping Machine;

3 3/8” - 120 C silk paint out as attached sample
Person also in photograph

Automatic Tapping Machine 3 3/8

Box 3:

This box contains forty-three 7.25” x 9.25” photographs. A few of the photographs also include the interior of the building.
03.200 Interior also in photograph
03.202 Interior also in photograph
This box contains sixty 7.25” x 9.5” photographs. These photographs came in an album that was disassembled in the interest of preservation. The photographs have been kept in their original order. The album was accompanied by four leaves of a typed list describing items in the photographs. The information from these lists has been copied directly to this aid, along with any additional information about and/or printed on the photographs. When information was copied directly from a photograph and/or list, the original wording and capitalizations were maintained. Also included in this box is a 5.75” x 6.75” advertisement piece showing a photograph of a man working on a machine and a written description of the machine.

Sheet 04.01-04 Three leaves of a typed list accompanied the album. They describe...
the items in the album. The numbers and information from this list have
been copied directly to this finding aid.

Sheet 04.05 Advertisement piece showing a man working on a machine and
including a description of the machine.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04.234</td>
<td>June 1932; Interior also in photograph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04.237</td>
<td>A-3. Side view of above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04.239</td>
<td>1. Front view – Single unit ¾” Four way Tapper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04.240</td>
<td>2. Rear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04.241</td>
<td>3. Two unit ¾” Three way Tapper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04.242</td>
<td>4. Three “ “ “ “</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04.243</td>
<td>5. Four “ “ “ “ Full Automatic Tapper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04.244</td>
<td>5-A. Front view – four unit ¾” Magazine fed Tapper – Positive clutch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04.245</td>
<td>5-B. Front view – two unit ¾” Magazine fed tapper for unilets – Positive clutch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04.246</td>
<td>5-C. Back view – two unit ¾” magazine fed tapper friction clutch – Air chuck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04.247</td>
<td>5-D. Front view of above</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. Side view – Single unit – 1 ¼” Full Automatic Tapper


8-A. Front view – 4 unit – 1 ¼” Magazine fed tapper – Positive clutch, Mechanical chuck

8-B. Rear view of above.

8-C. Front view – three unit 1 ¼” magazine fed tapper – Friction clutch, air chuck

8-D. Rear view of above

9. Front view single unit 1 ¼” full automatic tapper

10. Chuck on 2” threeway tapper; Interior also in photograph

11. Three unit 2” threeway tapper

12. Front view 2” Fiveway tapper

13. Rear view 2” fiveway tapper

14. Three unit 2” threeway full automatic tapper

15. Three unit 4” three and fourway tapper

16. Front view single unit 6” threeway tapper

17. Rear view single unit 6” threeway tapper

17-A. Front view – 6”- 3 way – Rev. A.C. Motor


18. Single unit 8” threeway tapper; Interior also in photograph

19. Two unit 1 ¼” single spindle tapper; Interior also in photograph

20. Front view three unit 1 ¼” single spindle tapper
21. Rear view three unit 1 ¼” single spindle tapper
22. Four unit 2” single spindle tapper
23. Single unit 4” single spindle tapper for Sanitary fittings
24. Single unit 6” single spindle tapper for Sanitary fittings
25. Single unit 6” single spindle tapper for Sanitary fittings – Double chuck
26. Single unit 6” single spindle Horizontal Tapper
27. Two unit 8” single spindle tapper for flanges
27-1. Side view 16” single spindle flange tapper; Davis Studios C.D. Hilles, Prop. Pottstown, PA; Copy made by Arrow 6/29/57 See envelope for film
27-A. Front view three unit 2” radiator nipple threading machine
27-B. Front view single unit 1” four spindle bushing machine – Automatic air index
27-C. Front view two unit 1” four spindle bushing machine – Automatic air index
27-D. Rear view of above
27-E. Front view two unit 1” four spindle bushing machine – Hand index
28. Front view two unit 2” bushing machine – Vertical
29. Rear view two unit 2” bushing machine – Vertical
30. Four unit 2” bushing machine – Vertical
30-A. Side view single unit 2” four spindle bushing machine – Automatic air index

30-B. Front view of above


31. Single unit 2” bushing machine – Vertical

32. Single unit 4” bushing machine – Vertical

33. Single unit 6” bushing machine – Vertical

**Box 5:**

This box contains seventy-one 7.25” x 9.5” photographs. They are a continuation of the photographs in Box 4, having come from the same album. Again, the information contained in the three leaves of a typed list accompanying the photographs has been copied directly to this finding aid. When information was copied directly from a photograph and/or list, the original wording and capitalizations were maintained. Any additional information about and/or printed on the photographs is also noted.

34. 2” Bushing underscoring machine

34-A. Front view 4 spindle plug machine with automatic extractor – Pulley drive

34-B. Same as above but motor drive

35. Four spindle plug machine – without extractor

35-A. Front view 6 spindle plug machine with automatic extractor – Pulley drive
05.299  35-B. Rear view of above
05.300  36. Rear view four spindle plug machine – without extractor
05.301  37. Single unit 1 ¼” Union Machine – Tail unit
05.302  38. Single unit 1 ¼” Union Nut machine
05.303  39. Two photographs numbered 39, but only one caption: Two inch
         Combined Union Machine
05.304  39. Two photographs numbered 39, but only one caption: Two inch
         Combined Union Machine
05.305  39-A. 2” Combination union machine with swinging turret
05.306  39-B. Same as above with air index
05.307  29-C. Same as above but with auxiliary heads
05.308  40. Three unit 2” union machine – head unit; Person also in photograph
05.309  41. Four unit 2” union machine – tail unit
05.310  42. Four unit 2” union nut machine
05.311  43. Two unit 2” Boiler ell machine – head end
05.312  44. Three spindle 1 ¼” special union machine – head unit; Person also in
         photograph
05.313  45. Three spindle 1 ¼” special union machine – tail unit
05.314  46. Special Union Machine 1 ¼”
05.315  47. Back view ¾” Valve Machine
05.316  48. Front view ¾” Valve Machine
05.317  49. Back view 2” Valve Machine – Friction index
05.318  50. Front view 2” Valve Machine – Friction Index
51. Front view 2” Valve machine – Air index

51-A. Front view special reaming and threading machine for condulets – 3
Work stations; Person and some interior also in photograph

51-B. Rear view of above

51-C. Front view – new 2” valve machine

51-D. L.H. Rear view of above

51-E. R.H. rear view of above

53. Back view 6” Valve Machine; Davis Studios C.D. Hilles, Prop.
Pottstown, PA; Interior also in photograph

54. Front view 6” Valve Machine; Davis Studios C.D. Hilles, Prop.
Pottstown, PA; Person and interior also in photograph

55. Vertical Swiper 25”

56. Three way facing machine 28”

57. Two spindle reaming machine for boiler sections

58. Typical Saylor Die

59. Saylor Die parts

60. Various sizes of Saylor dies

61. Special Return Bend Machine – 2” Rear view

62. Special Return Bend Machine – Front view

63. Front view 2” Return Bend Tapper – Old Style

63-A. Front view of new 2” Return Bend Machine

64. Reaming, tapping, facing machine for steam traps; Interior also in photograph
05.338  65. Reaming, tapping, facing machine for steam traps; Interior also in photograph
05.339  66. Gate valve boring and facing machine
05.340  67. Hexagon nut swiper – Rear view
05.341  68. Hexagon nut swiper – front view
05.342  69. 10” Flange facing and drilling machine
05.343  70. Threeway swiper 25” – front view; Person also in photograph
05.343.1 71. Threeway swiper – 25” – drive arrangement; Interior also in photograph
05.344  72. R.H. front view of Gang Tapper for boiler sections
05.345  72-A. L.H. Front view of above; Interior also in photograph
05.346  72-B. Front view of above; Interior also in photograph
05.347  73. Dean unit control for McCarthy Valve
05.348  74. 2 unit 2” solid fitting drilling and tapping machine
05.349  75. Front view – 6” Pipe threading machine – Rev. motor drive – AC
05.351  76. Front view- 2 Spindle reaming & threading maching
05.353  77. 2” – Gate Valve Seating Machine
05.354  78. Front View – 2 Unit – ¾” Reaming & Tapping Maching – H.B. Sherman

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05.356  79. 2” Pipe Coupling Machine – Scrapped
05.357  80. 3 Spindle Reaming Machine for boiler sections; Davis Studio C.D. Hilles, Prop. Pottstown, PA
05.358
05.359  W.N. Jennings Photography 10 South 18th St. Phila., PA; G.E.
05.360
05.361  W.N. Jennings Photography 10 South 18th St. Phila., PA; G.E.
05.362  W.N. Jennings Photography 10 South 18th St. Phila., PA; G.E.; 6” Fourway – Detroit B. & M. Wks 0253 shipped June 30, 1931
05.363  W.N. Jennings Photography 10 South 18th St. Phila., PA; G.E.

**Box 6:**

This box contains two oversize photographs. Both of the photographs are 7.5” x 9.5” and have been pasted on a cardboard backing. Photograph 365 is a print of a machine pasted on a 10” x 12” backing. Photograph 366 is a print of a machine part held by a man pasted on an 11” x 14” backing.

06.365  7.5” x 9.5” print of a machine pasted on a 10” x 12” cardboard backing
06.366  7.5” x 9.5” print of a machine part held by a man pasted on an 11” x 14” cardboard backing