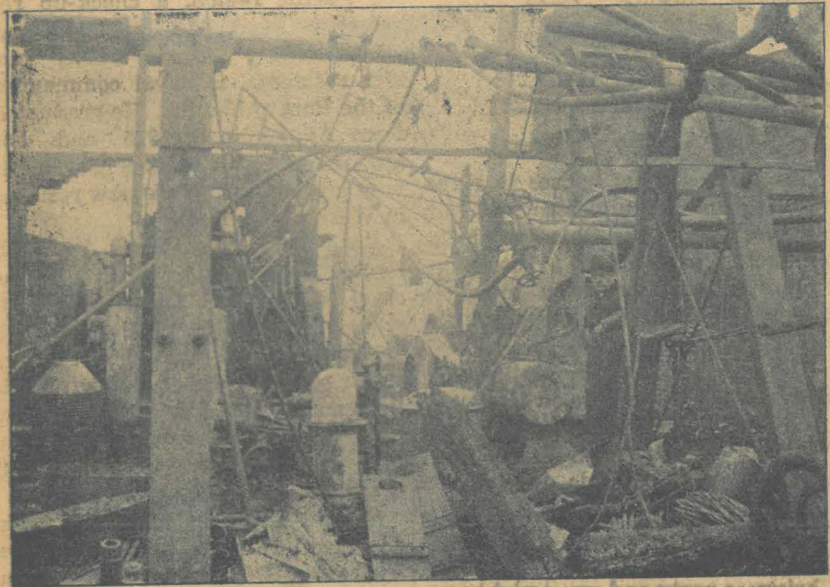


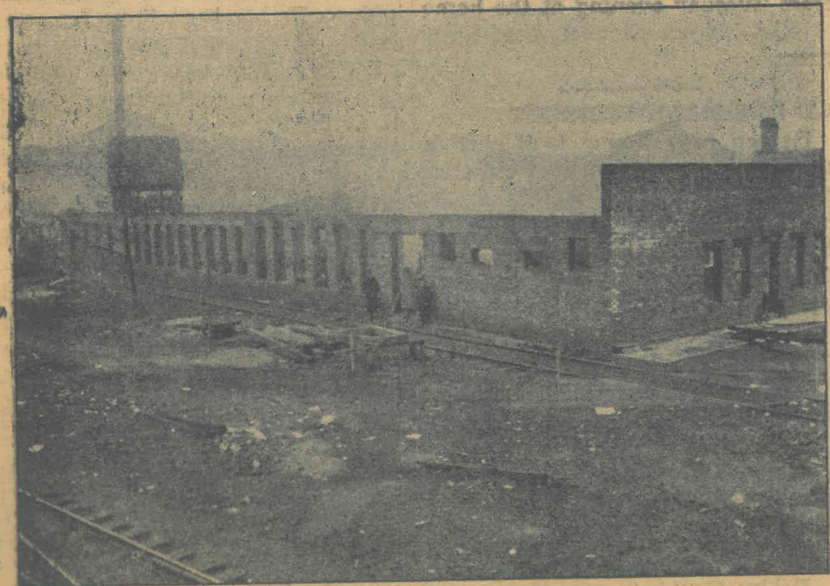
SCENES FROM REX FIRE IN '17



Remnants of the Rex fire, showing the boiler and other machinery, as they were salvaged from the ruins of the building.



The interior of the Rex fire, showing the extensive damage to the building's structure.



Many Newcomerstown residents remember well the evening of April 17, 1917, when the Rex fire broke out.

Agreement

By and between Heller Brothers Company of Newark, N. J. and The Rex File Company of Newcomerstown, Ohio, as parties of the first part and the subscriber hereto for the Preferred 7 Per Cent. Cumulative Capital Stock of the said The Rex File Company, parties of the second part.

Witnesseth:

The parties of the first part agree to issue or cause to be issued, just as soon as it can legally do so, \$100,000.00 of the 7 per cent. preferred Cumulative capital stock of the said The Rex File Company.

The money derived from the sale of such stock, to which will be added an equal amount by the said Heller Brothers Company, will be invested in additional plant buildings, machinery, tools, and equipment at its present plant located in Newcomerstown, Ohio.

The parties of the first part further agree to issue no mortgage bonds or other liens against its property located in said Newcomerstown, or permit any liens to be obtained against the same, without the consent of three-fourths of the preferred stockholders.

It is understood and agreed that The Rex File Company will use the above sums of money for the purposes above set forth at the earliest period its business will warrant, consistent with the best interest of the stockholders of said company; and at this time it is fully expected that such conditions will warrant such expenditure within the next six to nine months, but should such conditions prove to the contrary the parties of the first part severally agree that after two years they will take up such stock at par and accrued dividend should any stockholder demand the same, provided in the meantime that the parties of the first part have not complied with the terms of this agreement and have not expended the said sum in additional plants, buildings and machinery in said village of Newcomerstown, Ohio.

The Rex File Company reserves the right to call the preferred stock of the company at any dividend period at \$105.00 per share with the accumulated dividends thereon.

The Rex File Company agrees to accept at par and accrued interest on such subscription Liberty Bonds to the extent of 25 per cent. of said preferred stock issued, the same being optional with the subscribers.

It is also understood and agreed by and between the parties hereto that the payment of subscriptions to said capital stock provided for herein is contingent upon the execution of a written contract between the parties of the first part and the Chamber of Commerce of Newcomerstown, Ohio, in reference to the subject matters set forth herein.

It is agreed that the parties of the second part, or the subscribers of said capital stock, can at his, her, or their option pay for the same upon either of the following methods:

First. Cash, for which interest will be paid at 7 per cent. until the certificate of stock is issued and delivered.

Second. One-fourth cash with subscription or within thirty days thereafter and in installments of 25 per cent. each three months thereafter, interest to be paid on all such payments at the rate of 7 per cent. until the certificate of stock is issued and delivered, after which dividends will be paid on such stock at 7 per cent. as hereinto provided.

The said Rex File Company agrees to issue and deliver said certificates of stock to the purchasers as soon as such payment is made in full thereon or just as soon thereafter as it can legally do so.

It is also understood and agreed that the first day of February and the first day of August of each year are to be the regular semi-annual periods for the payment of dividends on said stock.

In witness whereof the parties of the first part, by their duly authorized officers, have hereunto subscribed their names this 16th day of March, 1921.

HELLER BROTHERS COMPANY,
PAUL E. HELLER, President.

THE REX FILE COMPANY

The REx File Company
Download from Heller Brothers File Co.

In 1906, a small file manufactory was opened in Newcomerstown, Ohio - the Rex File & Saw Co. This business grew over the next ten years to become a prominent player in the file market. But disaster struck on April 11th, 1917, when a huge fire totally destroyed the Rex complex. Seizing on an opportunity, Heller, in need of more land and cheaper labor than Newark had to offer, bought the Rex site and set about rebuilding the file factory and hiring the workers.

Heller Bros. of Newark and Newcomerstown

A few years after Abel Simonds set up shop in Fitchburg, an enterprising German immigrant named Elias Heller started his own small shop on Hamilton Street in Newark, New Jersey. With its original crew of three, this shop made hand files and rasps.

By the mid-1860's, three of Elias's sons - Elias George, Peter and Lewis - had entered the business and worked to build what their father started. Under their leadership, Heller was one of the first file manufacturers to use machines to make files, and Heller was one of the first American brands recognized to be as good as the European imports.

Soon, the company was renamed Heller & Bros. and in 1874 the company moved to a new facility on Mt. Prospect Street in Newark, where they had plenty of room to expand. As their business grew, they quickly recognized the need to produce their own steel, and in 1880 they opened a steel mill next to the file factory, producing crucible steel. The business was incorporated in 1899 as Heller Brothers Company. In 1912, after Elias George passed away, his son Paul took over the business as a third-generation leader, and took the company to even greater heights.

In 1906, a small file manufactory was opened in Newcomerstown, Ohio - the Rex File & Saw Co. This business grew over the next ten years to become a prominent player in the file market. But disaster struck on April 11th, 1917, when a huge fire totally destroyed the Rex complex. Seizing on an opportunity, Heller, in need of more land and cheaper labor than Newark had to offer, bought the Rex site and set about rebuilding the file factory and hiring the workers.

Over the course of the next 30 years or so, more and more of the Heller business was moved from Newark to Newcomerstown and by 1950, the Newcomerstown facility occupied over 250,000 square feet and Heller was one of the top three file brands in the world (along with Nicholson and Simonds). By 1953, Heller closed down its Newark factories and moved fully to Newcomerstown.

By the early 1950's most of the third generation Hellers had passed and the fourth generation was not as interested in running the family business. Soon, they were approached by Simonds to be acquired, and on July 1st, 1955, Simonds acquired Heller Bros.

The combined file businesses of Simonds and Heller were now #2 in the world, second only to Nicholson. Simonds continued to produce files in Fitchburg until 1960, when all file manufacturing was consolidated in Newcomerstown. And that is the story of another of the great American tool brands - Heller files.

The Professionals' Edge™ Simonds International

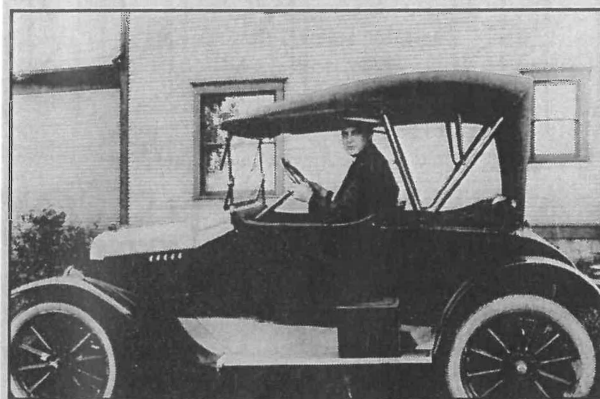


Photo courtesy of Ann De Fields, Lemon Grove, Calif., the granddaughter of Wilson
Former Rex Filing Company Superintendent Frank Wilson is seen in this circa 1915-16 photo. The Rex Filing Company was destroyed by fire in 1917 and later re-built. It was later known as Heller Tool Company, then Simonds. Wilson was in charge of the filing plant until 1924, when he later relocated to Cleveland to manage the Cleveland File Company.

The First File Plant in Newcomerstown

Early in the year 1906, a group of Newcomerstown citizens working closely with the Board of Trade, made an offer to D.D. Lewis, the President of Jamestown File Mfg. Co. to move his file plant to Newcomerstown. Another step forward in the development and prosperity of our town.

According to information passed down, but not confirmed, D.D. Lewis needed additional machinery and buildings to increase his manufacturing output of files not available in Jamestown. Approximately \$ 30,000 was offered to Mr. Lewis to move his plant, the money to be raised through the sale of stock, approximately 102 citizens offered to purchase stock. There is a list of stockholders who helped finalize the move to Newcomerstown. The list published in the 1906 Newcomerstown News is available on microfilm at the Newcomerstown Public Library.

On May 29, 1906, M. Yingling, President of the Board of Trade, broke ground with spade in hand for the new industry located on the southwest side of the C & M Railroad tracks. Buildings were to be constructed all joined together (46 x 62), (32 x 72), and (32 x 52), with a second story of (20 x 32) and another (16 x 20) with the main building (100 x 36).

The construction between the Board of Trade and Mr. Lewis stipulated that within 60 days after the building is completed 40 hands will be employed, and within the second 6 months 35 more will be employed, and in one year a total of 100 men and boys will be employed. Lewis had a secret process for hardening files and Lewis guaranteed the plant will remain here ten years under a forfeiture of \$ 5000 in case these conditions are not complied with faithfully.

Brick from both local plants were to be used for the buildings.

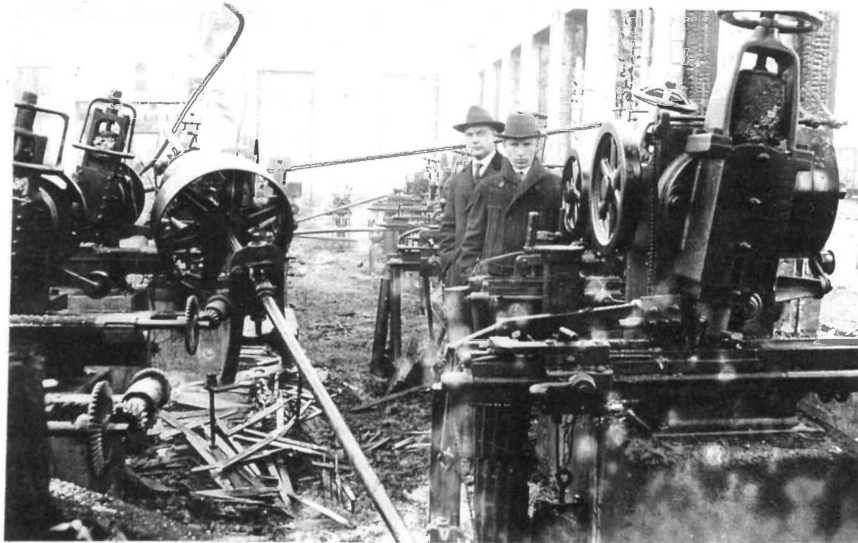
The name of the new plant is Rex File and Saw Company. Directors elected are some of our best citizens who are competent to look after the stockholders interest and conduct the new industry on strict business principals. The directors elected are: J.F. Bean
Frank Wilson, H.R. Hosick, Albert Zimmer, J.S. Barnett, William Hoforth, D.D., Lewis M. Yingling, George Miskimen, David Laub, M.B. Kennedy, S.B. Mulvane, and F.H. Murphy.

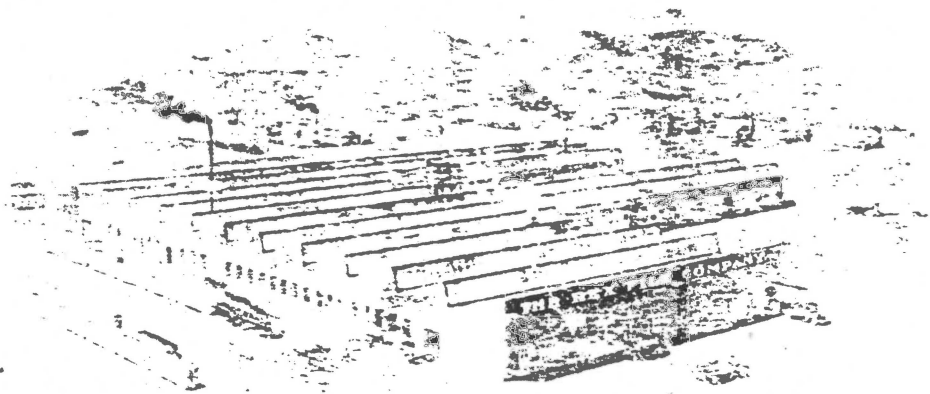
In 1907 additional capital was needed to properly operate the plant and the capital was raised by the sale of stock to Newcomerstown citizens.

Rex File and Saw Company Newcomerstown, Ohio (1906 - 1917)

The Rex File and Saw Company in Newcomerstown was almost totally destroyed by fire on April 17, 1917. The Heller Steel Mill in Newark, NJ was supplying steel to Rex for the manufacture of files. Rex was manufacturing 500 dozen files a day, employing approximately 100 people and had a payroll of \$2,000 per week.

Rex owed the Heller Steel Mill a large sum of money for the purchase of file steel. Insurance carried by Rex was \$50,000 and the loss was over \$100,000. The Heller Brothers Co. in Newark, NJ made an offer to the stockholders and directors of Rex to cancel the file steel indebtedness and pay an unnamed amount of cash for the property, plant, machinery, equipment, inventory, and transfer of the name Rex to Heller which was accepted by the Rex stockholders and directors.





PRICE LIST
— OF —
THE REX FILE
COMPANY

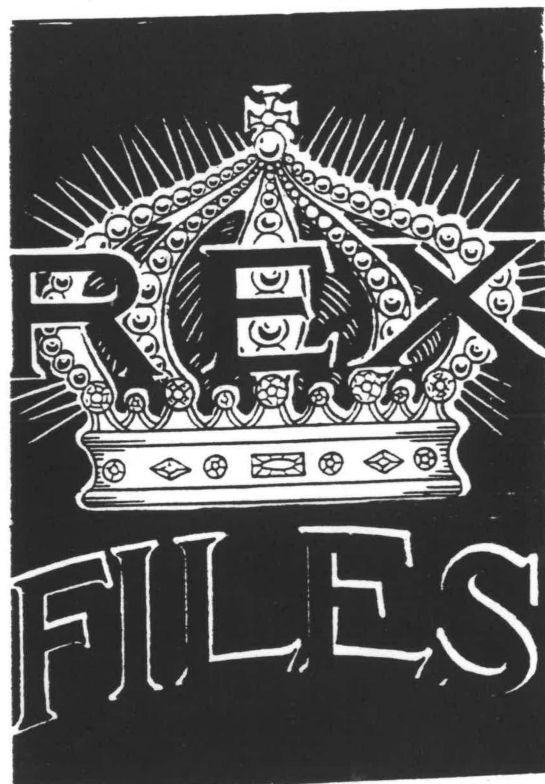


MANUFACTURERS OF

“REX” BRAND FILES
AND RASPS

Office and Works: CARLISLE STREET
NEWCOMERSTOWN, OHIO

*PRICE PER DOZEN as adopted by the File
Manufacturers' Association of the United
States, November 1, 1899*



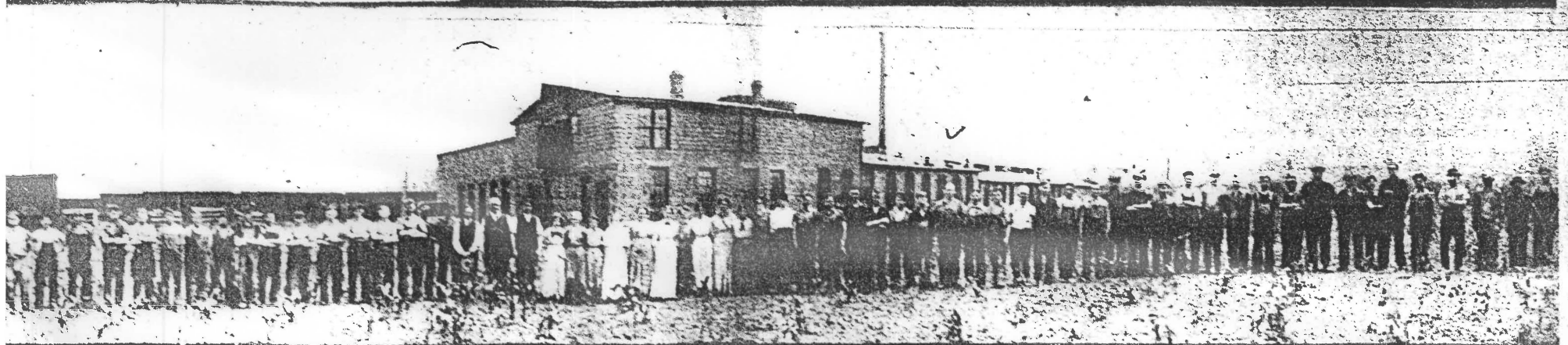
Rex File Co.
Advertising 1916



An offer was then made by Heller to the local Chamber of Commerce to rebuild the file plant in Newcomerstown and move additional machinery and equipment to the rebuilt factory if help could be obtained on the cost of the proposed new file factory. Heller offered the sale of \$20,000 in 7% preferred stock to the citizens of Newcomerstown. The stock was subscribed to and the factory rebuilding was completed in January 1918 and the manufacturing of files again in Newcomerstown started in February 1918.

By 1920, the business had almost doubled, employing 200 people manufacturing 1,000 + dozens of files per day with an average wage of \$5.00 per day.

In 1921, J.F. Bean, general manager, retired and Alfred L. Heller, Sr. from the Heller plant in Newark became general manager.



OLD PHOTOGRAPH FOUND

Newcomerstown R.D. 1, found this old photograph of what was the Rex File and Saw Co. while going through some of his late uncle, Paul Everhart, recently. Everhart has no date on the picture to determine when it was taken, but he speculated it was just after the turn of the century. The building became Heller Brothers and is now Simonds Cutting located on Heller Drive in Newcomerstown.

4-H notes

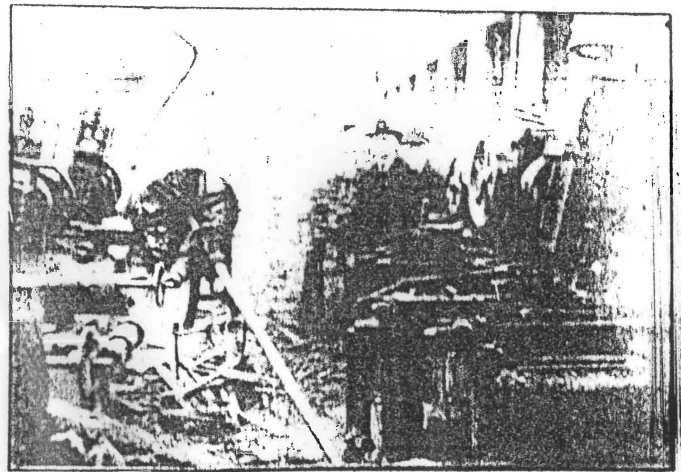
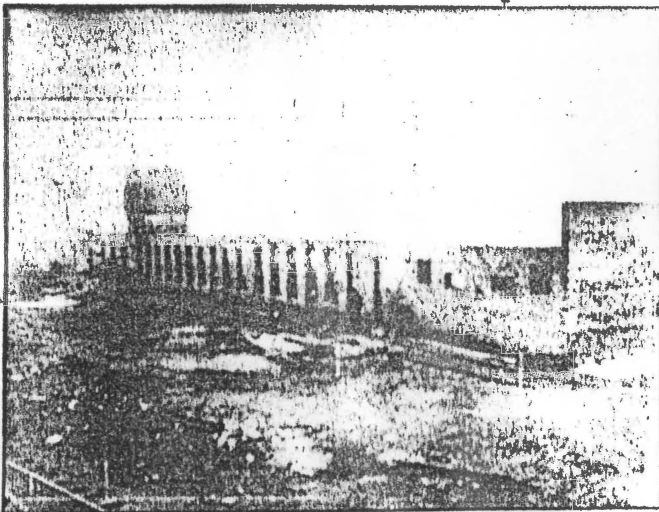
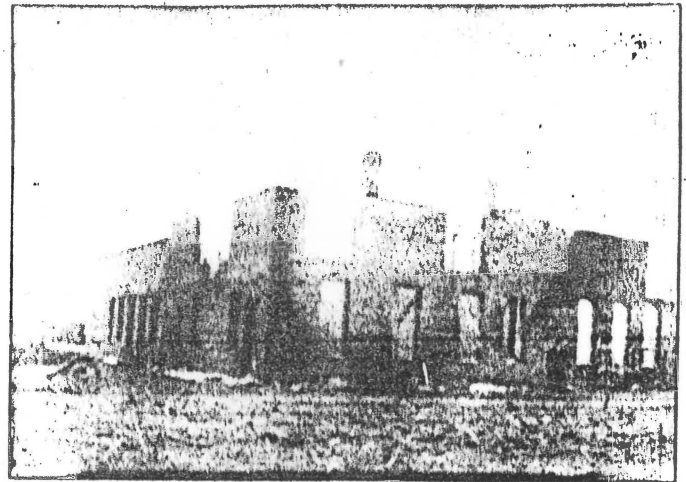
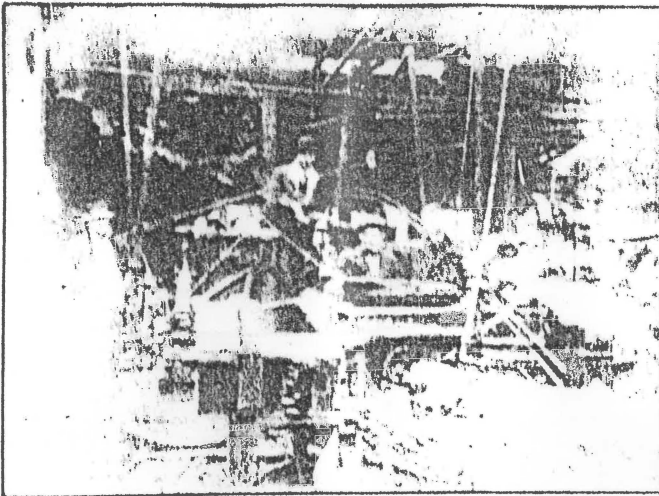
Group is project

Group I was selected the group project when Tunnel Hill, Stone Creek, met March 24 at Zion Lutheran Church. Projects must be made by April 15. Officers were: Tim Scott, president; Brian Pfeiffer, vice president; Jennifer Homan, secretary; Jill Boltz, treasurer; Rachael [unclear]; Mike Ross, Health; Jason Myers, Safety; Andy Stein, [unclear]. Andy Stein and Brian Pfeiffer will comprise the Programs committee. Yearly dues are 50-cents.

Clark named president

Meeting of the Buckhorn Buckeyes was held March 22 at the [unclear] Williams. Officers were elected as follows: [unclear], president; Tammy Williams, vice president; Tammy [unclear]; Keith Hinds, treasurer; Kevin Lahmers, Health; Carla [unclear]; Mike Porcher, Safety; Jay Tufford, Recreation. Meeting scheduled to meet again on May 3 at 2 p.m. at the Tufford [unclear].





70th ANNIVERSARY OF FIRE

Shown are four photographs which show the result of a fire which destroyed the old Rex File plant in Newcomerstown on the site of what is now the Simonds Cutting Tool plant. The negatives for the pictures were

provided by Harry Ball of Newcomerstown. The fire gutted the plant on April 12, 1917, making this the 70th anniversary of the disaster.

MAY 1987
GREAT VALU\$
AT
MORGAN PHARMACY

REVLON

TERUMO
Insulin Syringe
Box of 100

MYLANTA
MILK OF MAGNESIA
TABLETS 100'S OR LIQUID 12oz

Noxzema.
MEDICATED SHAVE 11oz.
YOUR CHOICE **\$1.89**

LENSEPT
Disinfection Solution
8oz. **\$3.99**

FOR WOMEN
lady speed stick
Powder Fresh Scented Unscented **\$1.79**

When you overflex... use
Myoflex
3oz. Pump Dispenser **\$2.99**

CALCIUM
OS-CAL
500 mg. **\$1.69**

Vaseline Intensive Care

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