

Page two, adding more history.

I may ^{HAVE} some history of Buckeye and Gar Wood that you may not have.

In 1943 buckeye was building tank transmission for the British. At that time they had a foundry and making there own castings. Also trenching machines that were smaller, but look like the Model 51. Starting about 1944 they redesigned the trenching machines. A lot of time was spent with state and government agencies working to improve the drainage of farm land.

Then came the war and government contracts. The truck cranes and bulldozer attachments

One thing I worked on was a step trencher. It dug six feet deep to protect from enemy fire, then a two foot step up ^{TO} a fire at the enemy. Only one built, but I think method of war fare changed and the project was dropped.

One thing I remember was Old Grand Dad set in front of Gar Wood. There was a centennial planed and they started to repair Old Grand Dad and found the steam engine would run. They had to install a new boiler to safely make steam. During the centennial parade, Old Grand Dad gallantly ran down main street.

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There are two people ^{to} add to the history, Ken Knootz and Bill Hagerman.

Hancock Historical Museum
422 W Sandusky St.
Findlay OH.

These pictures are of a Model 51 Trenching Machine, the 51s machine dug most of the trenches for pipe lines all over the United States. They were built starting in the thirties. This one of the last ones built about 1955. This may be the only one left, as I believe most of them have been destroyed.

The history of the Buckeye Traction Ditcher Co building in 1902 the first farm drainage machine. This type of machines has drained all of the farm lands in OH. , MI., IN. IL., IW. As well in Canada. These machines greatly increased the crop, in some cases doubled the crop. My wife's Grandfather talked about digging and laying tile by hand before the machines.

I started work at buckeye in 1943, and worked there until it closed on Dec. 31 1972. During the war we produced 20 ton truck cranes for the military and bull dozer attachments for military crawler tractors.

We built a trencher to dig eleven feet deep and sixty four inches wide. Then attachments were added to cut a open ditch five foot flat bottom five feet deep with 1/12 to 1 side slope, twenty two feet across the top. This machine went to Brownsville Texas to dig irrigation canals

My Father, C. W. Shireman, was the station master at the depot on east Sandusky street. He has told of every morning a train load of workers would go to the oil fields near Portage and back at night. He left the railroad about 1900 and went into the Buckeye National Bank.

Hope this will add to your history.

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P.S. I tried to send these pictures by e-mail, but they would not go thru.
Feel free to contact me for more information.