

SHORT HISTORY OF **Allen-Bradley** COMPANY

The Allen-Bradley Company was founded by Dr. Stanton Allen and two brothers, Harry and Lynde Bradley.

The Bradley brothers were born in Kansas City, Mo. -- Harry in 1885 and Lynde seven years earlier. When Lynde was 13 years old the family moved to Milwaukee. Here he read a book titled "Electricity for Engineers" which was rather heavy reading for a 15 year old boy. We mention this because the book contained reference to a carbon pile resistance which in later years became the original basis on which the Allen-Bradley Company was founded.

Between 1898 and 1900 Lynde owned and operated an X-ray laboratory in the Pabst Building where he became acquainted with Dr. Stanton Allen, a specialist in orthopedic surgery. By this time his younger brother Harry was 14 years old and was receiving his early practical training in his brother's X-ray Lab.

X-rays were relatively new at the time and many doctors visited the lab including Dr. Allen who spent much time there investigating the new technique. The doctor and Lynde became close friends.

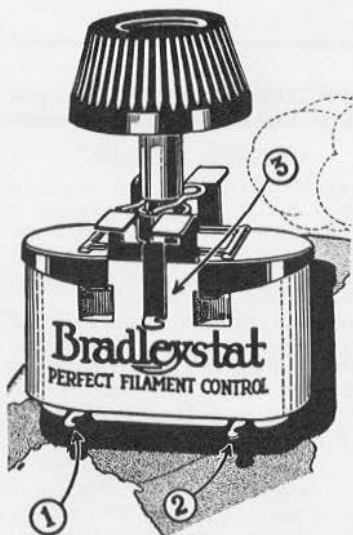
In 1900 Lynde became employed as an erector and trouble shooter for the now non-existent Milwaukee Electric Company. His work in repairing and maintaining crane controllers awakened his latent interest in the motor control field which resulted in designing a carbon compression type controller with a working model being completed in 1901 when he was 23 years old.

This model and its performance created considerable interest among electrical engineers. Contact was made with the American Electric Fuse Co. (Chicago) to produce the controller under a royalty arrangement under the name Compression Rheostat Co. (which was incorporated in 1904).

Financial complications with the American Electric Fuse Co. in 1909 made it advisable to sever relations and the Bradley brothers with Allen decided to set up their own company. Since the agreement with the Fuse company had been with the Compression Rheostat Co., it was decided to seek and new identity and the name was changed to ALLEN-BRADLEY Co. on August 6, 1909.

Business prospered and at the start of WWI it was necessary to increase operations. In 1916 they purchased the plant they were renting and in spring of 1919 a two story addition was made giving them over 18,000 square feet of floor space.

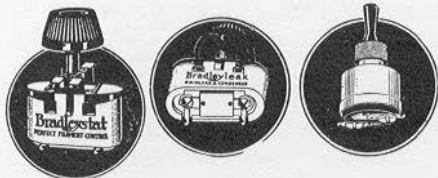
The end of War I brought a recession -- orders were scarce and for a time the future did not appear rosy. Looking for a new outlet that might produce a few orders, they started to manufacture a small rheostat for adjusting battery charging current in automobiles. Unfortunately, there wasn't the volume they had anticipated.



About this time "amateur radio" broke wide open on the market and there developed a tremendous need

for the automobile rheostats mentioned above since with slight modification it could be used in radios.

Over the next few years, millions of BRADLEYSTATS were sold to control the filaments of tubes. With the advent of the "B" eliminator another field was open for a voltage control device. Later, when rheostats were replaced by a "fix resistance" unit (cost reduction) the company was ready. A-B was now firmly entrenched in the ever growing radio field.



Bradleystat Bradleyleak Bradleyswitch

Over the years the company grew from 12 employees in 1910 to nearly 7000 in the 1960's. It has broadened its line of products which includes a complete line of industrial motor control apparatus, a wide variety of electric components and equipment, a line of hard and soft ferrite molded parts and several special industrial devices.

Radio "buffs" and collectors well remember these early products made by Allen-Bradley:

--Bradley-denser, --Bradley-stat,
--Bradley-leak, --Bradley-ohm
--Bradley-ometer, --Bradley-switch
and many other items.



Bradleyohm



Bradleyometer

Harry Bradley died in 1965, Lynde passed away in 1942 and Dr. Allen in 1916.

Much of the above information was obtained by Peter Kailus from a book titled "The Allen-Bradley Story" published in 1965.

(Note: The largest four-faced clock in the world is on top of the A-B building in Milwaukee. Each clock face has a diameter of 40 feet, 3 1/2 inches and a minute hand 20 feet long! In comparison, London's Big Ben is only 23 feet in diameter with a 14 foot minute hand.)

Ben Grauer, pioneer NBC announcer, dies

NEW YORK — Ben Grauer, a pioneer NBC radio announcer who was hailed as one of the greatest of all time, died Tuesday in his sleep after suffering a major heart attack, a hospital spokesman said. He would have been 69 on Thursday.

Mr. Grauer was admitted to New York University Medical Center for treatment of a heart ailment and suffered a major coronary attack last weekend. He was believed to be responding to treatment, but was found dead in bed at 8:30 a.m.

A versatile radio and television reporter, Mr. Grauer's range of coverage included such divergent events as the Berkshire Music Festival and the 1948 Israeli-Arab war.

He joined the National Broadcasting Co. in 1930, when the network was only four years old.

Mr. Grauer retired May 30, 1973.

A native New Yorker, he probably was best known for his coverage of New Year's Eve from Times Square. He began in show business at age 7 on the Broadway stage and in movies. In 1918, he had a role in "Penrod" with a young actress named Helen Hayes.

Mr. Grauer, a City College of New York graduate, had been heard by millions of radio listeners and later TV viewers from blimps, helicopters, telephone booths, diving bells and network studios in his 43 years of broadcasting.

From the front page of The New York Times, September 13, 1926.

Bowker. ... live in Philadelphia.

WEAF MADE NUCLEUS OF NEW RADIO CHAIN

Radio Corporation Subsidiary to Broadcast Programs to the Entire Nation.

(The birth of NBC. Bob Morris, W2LV and several other AWA members were involved in this "deal"...)