



100 YEARS OF PICTURING THE NATION'S BUSINESS

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE COLLECTION
OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA





Left: Horydczak, Theodor (d. 1971)
Fashioning warm air elbows for Lennox
Furnace Company, 1925
Silver print, 10 x 8 in. [Hagley Museum
and Library PC20101113_001]

One hundred years ago, on April 22, 1912, 700 representatives of American business gathered in Washington, D.C. President William Howard Taft spoke to them, requesting that businesses form a national group to advise the government on issues facing industry and business throughout the country. The Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America was formed. Today, it is the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than 3 million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations.

The organization grew quickly. One of its earliest projects was publishing a monthly magazine, *Nation's Business*. From its first issue, published in September 1912, the magazine proved invaluable in communicating the Chamber's messages to business and government. Printed originally in newspaper format, and then as a magazine, its circulation increased dramatically in just a few years. Illustrations played an important part in the design. *Nation's Business* used images by many of the country's most prominent photographers until publication ceased in 1999. Today, the Chamber uses all modes of communication, reaching an ever-increasing audience through the Web, television, radio, and social media.

The pictures in this booklet are samples of the images available in the Chamber of Commerce of the United States collection at Hagley Museum and Library in Wilmington, Delaware. Most of the pictures come from the files of *Nation's Business* photographs. The magazine used the works of many well-known photographers, including Margaret Bourke-White, Lewis Hine, André Kertész, and Dorothea Lange. In addition, it used works by anonymous corporate and commercial photographers, as well as photographs from U.S. government agencies, such as the Soil Conservation Service and the Office of War Information.

Many of the prints show the crop lines indicating the portion of the image that the editor wished to reproduce in the magazine. Editors often had to alter images to suit the layout of the page or to better illustrate the content of the article. The most recent images in the collection are digital photographs, an indication of the revolution in photography that has changed not only the work of editors but also the tasks of archivists.

Publication of *Nation's Business* began during the period of the birth and development of the American magazine. The first two decades of the twentieth century saw the introduction of mass market publications, including *McClure's Magazine*, *The Saturday Evening Post*, and *Ladies' Home Journal*. *Nation's Business* was a pioneer, focusing specifically on business-related articles and illustrations.



Anonymous (Boeing Aircraft Company)
Boeing Aircraft Company production lines showing B-17E
bombers under construction, Seattle, Washington, 1942
Silver print, 8 x 10 in. [Hagley Museum and Library PC20110525_898]



Anonymous
Anthracite miners waiting to go on duty at the Alaska Colliery of the Philadelphia
and Reading Coal and Iron Company near Mount Carmel, Pennsylvania, 1933
Silver print, 8 x 10 in. [Hagley Museum and Library PC20110601_428]



The period from 1920 to the late 1950s has been called the golden age of the American magazine. Circulation of *Nation's Business* continued to grow, and new stylistic formats with colorful covers and more and more photographs and charts illustrating stories on a wide range of topics were adopted. In the 1950s, the magazine even published short fiction by up-and-coming authors such as Ray Bradbury. The success of *Reader's Digest* (1922), *Time* (1923), and especially *Fortune* (1930) provided competition. *Life* magazine's introduction in 1936 raised magazine illustration to a whole new level, and *Nation's Business* responded by seeking more striking images from America's great photographers.

Television became the largest competitor to mass market magazines, siphoning off advertising and readership. *Life*, *Look*, and *The Saturday Evening Post* all ceased publication by 1972. The growth of the Internet in the 1990s spelled the end for even niche market magazines, and *Nation's Business* ceased printing in 1999.

Since 1992, Hagley Museum and Library has been the home of the archives of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. Hagley Library is the nation's leading business history library, archives, and research center. More than 37,000 linear feet of archival records, close to 300,000 printed volumes, and some 2 million visual items document business and industry from colonial America to the present day. In addition to the Chamber's papers, the library houses collections from Avon Products, the DuPont Company, MCI, the Pennsylvania Railroad, PSFS, Joseph E. Seagram & Sons, Sperry Gyroscope and Sperry-Univac, and Sun Oil. The library has more than 220,000 digital items searchable and available in its online archive at <http://digital.hagley.org>, where you can find material from this exhibition as well as a complete run of *Nation's Business*.

Schutz
Chamber of Commerce of the United States building under
construction, Washington, D.C., 1923
Silver print, 8 x 10 in. [Hagley Museum and Library P20120106_008]



Wide World Photos
U.S. Battleships under attack at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, December 7, 1941
Silver print, 8 x 10 in. [Hagley Museum and Library Pc20110315_587]



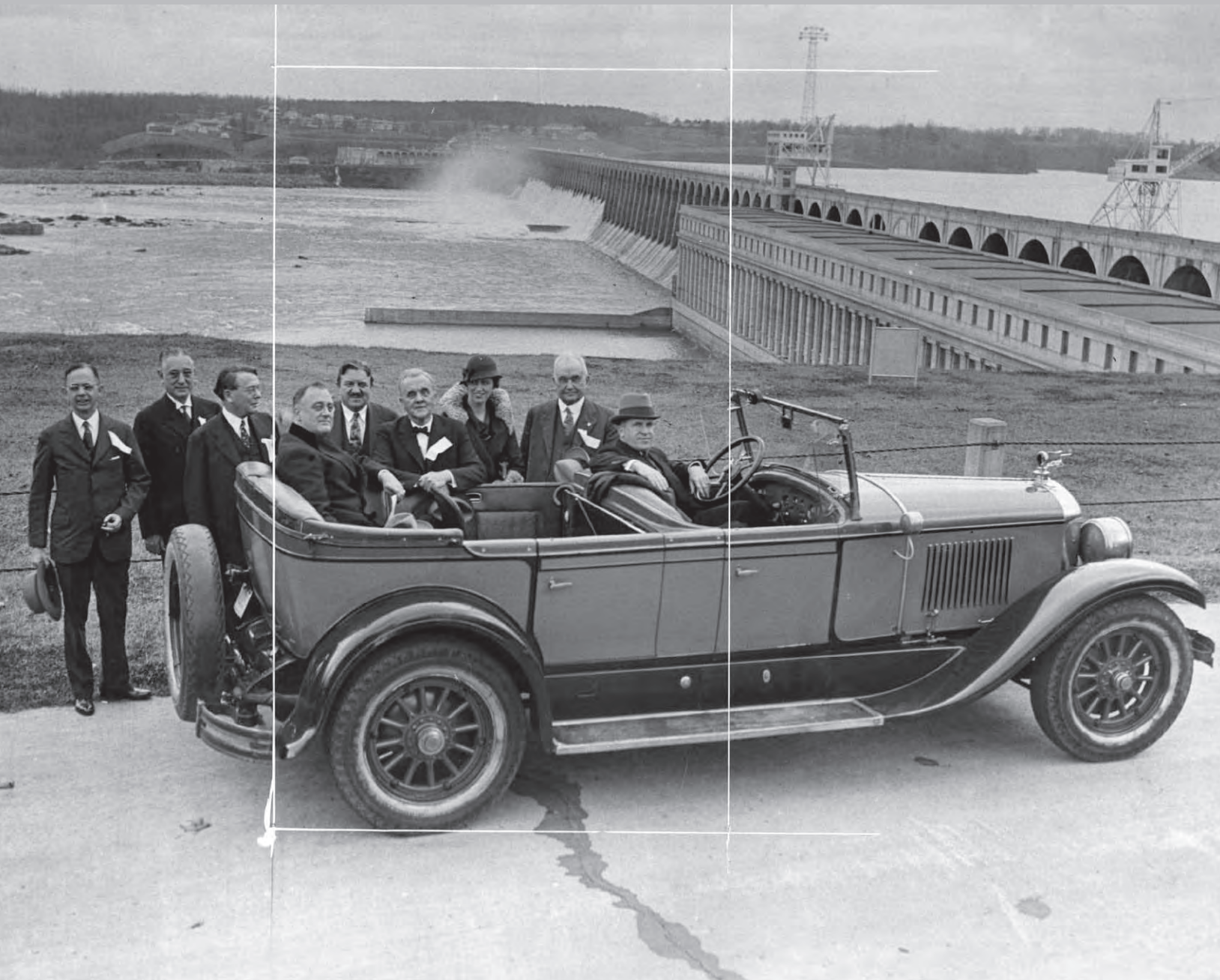
Anonymous (NBC Photo)
The NBC network broadcasting a New York Giants baseball game
at the Polo Grounds, New York City, 1947
Silver print, 8 x 10 in. [Hagley Museum and Library PC20110330_748]



Ewing Galloway, N.Y.
Washday scene, tenement courtyards in
Lower East Side, New York City, 1920
Silver print, 10 x 8 in. [Hagley Museum
and Library PC20110411_931]



Kira, Hiromu (1898-1991)
The Thinker [at the Hollywood Dam, California], 1931
Silver print, 11 x 14 in. [Hagley Museum and Library PC20110418_296]



*Above: Keystone View Company
Franklin D. Roosevelt, president-elect, visiting Wilson Dam
at Muscle Shoals, Alabama, January 21, 1933
Silver print, 8 x 10 in. [Hagley Museum and Library PC20110427_464]*

*Opposite, top: Thompson, Paul
Women waiting in line for their turn during a run on the Seamen's Bank, New York City, 1914
Silver print, 6 x 8 in. [Hagley Museum and Library PC20110411_991]*

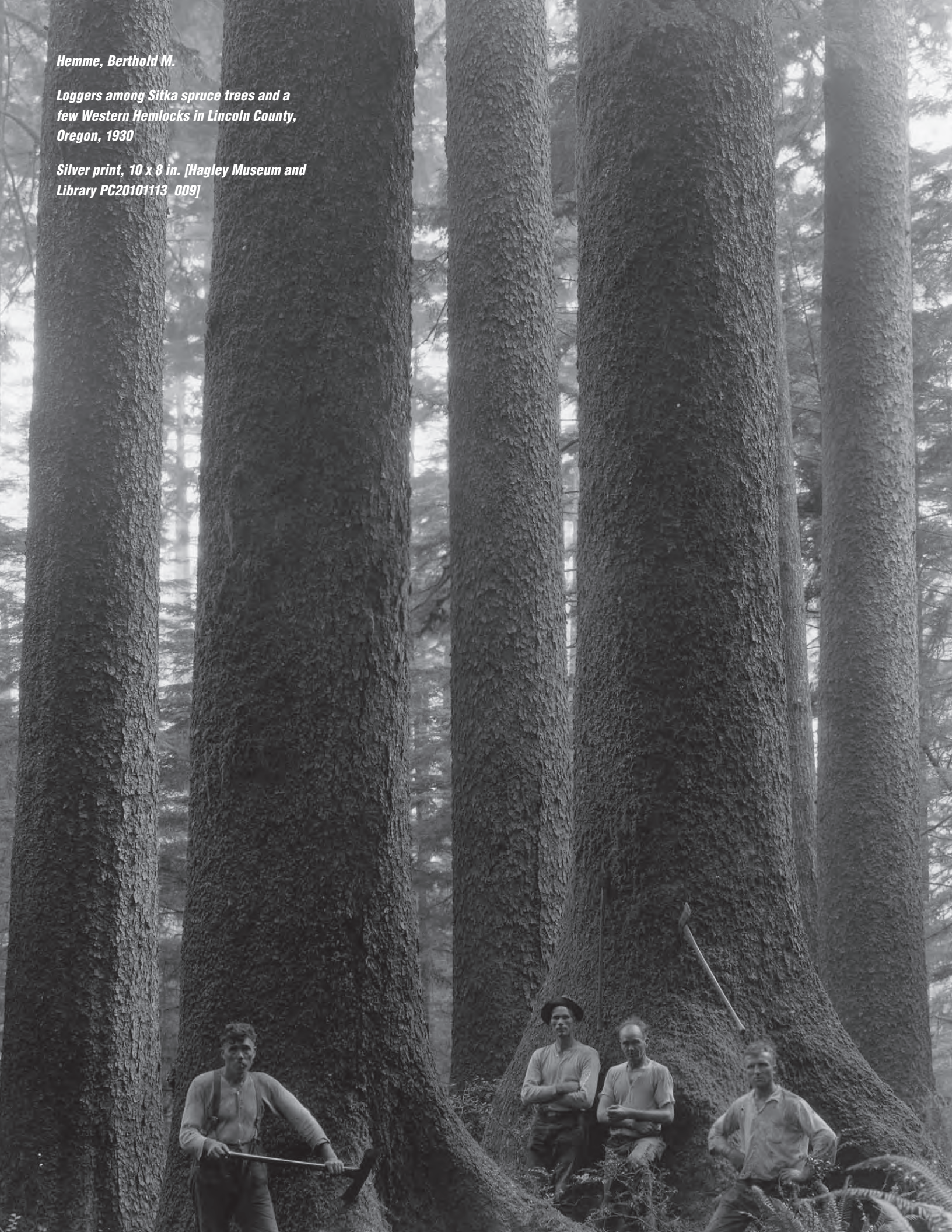
*Opposite, bottom: Anonymous (U. S. Bureau of Public Roads)
Dirt road in Arkansas before improvement, 1920
Silver print, 5 x 7 in. [Hagley Museum and Library PC20110510_724]*



Hemme, Berthold M.

Loggers among Sitka spruce trees and a few Western Hemlocks in Lincoln County, Oregon, 1930

Silver print, 10 x 8 in. [Hagley Museum and Library PC20101113_009]



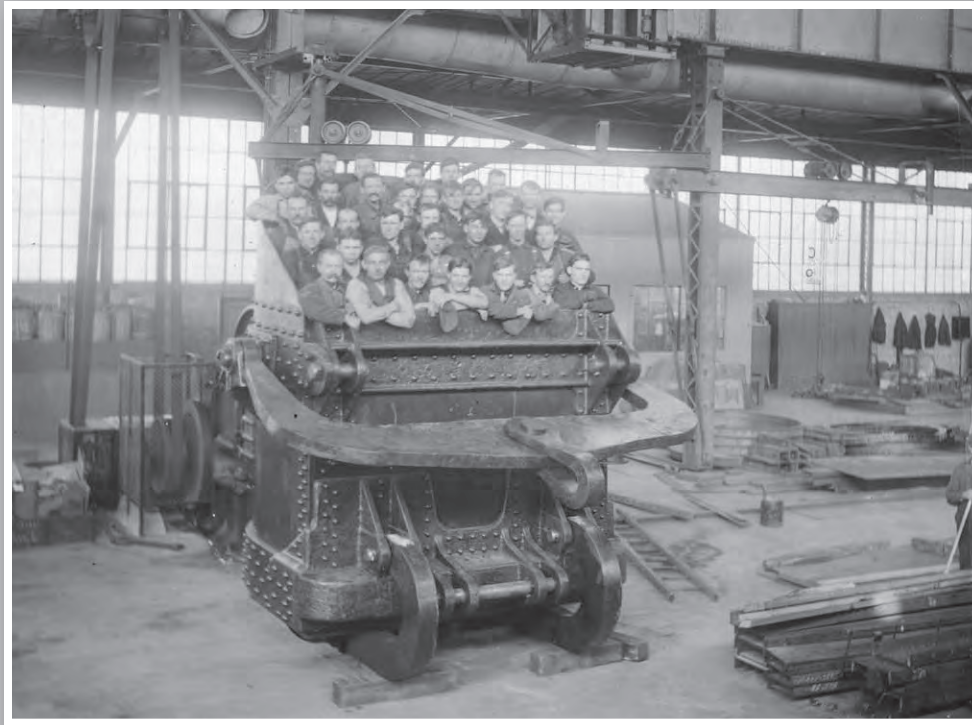
Thompson, Paul

Suffragette activities in Ohio where the question will be put up to voters at next election, 1919
Silver print, 6 x 8 in. [Hagley Museum and Library PC20110307_502]



Anonymous

The largest and the smallest books in the Library of Congress, 1947
(The model is pointing at the smallest book inside its case)
Silver print, 8 x 10 in. [Hagley Museum and Library PC20101113_010]



Above: Anonymous
Publicity photograph of the RCA TRK-12 television set, 1939
Silver print, 8 x 10 in. [Hagley Museum and Library PC20110303_453]

Opposite, top: Anonymous
Workers in the Bucyrus factory demonstrate the size of the 15-cubic yard dippers for dredges built for the Panama Canal, 1914
Silver print, 7 x 9 in. [Hagley Museum and Library PC20110307_474]

Opposite, bottom: Anonymous
Publicity photograph for Phil Spitalny and his all-girl orchestra, 1945
Silver print, 8 x 10 in. [Hagley Museum and Library PC20101230_002]



*Anonymous (Sylvania Electric - Pennsylvania Railroad photograph)
A night photograph taken to mark the centennial of the Horseshoe Curve
on the Pennsylvania Railroad (as the Trail Blazer train, en route to Chicago,
passed an Altoona-bound freight train, the scene was illuminated with six
thousand photo flash bulbs)
Silver print, 8 x 10 in. [Hagley Museum and Library PC20110330_760]*



Edgerton, Harold E. (1903-1990)
Wes Fesler kicking a football, high-speed photograph, 1934
Silver print, 10 x 8 in. [Hagley Museum and Library PC20110414_257]



Anonymous
American Airlines publicity photograph showing a DC-3 and a stagecoach, 1949
Silver print, 8 x 10 in. [Hagley Museum and Library PC20110412_215]



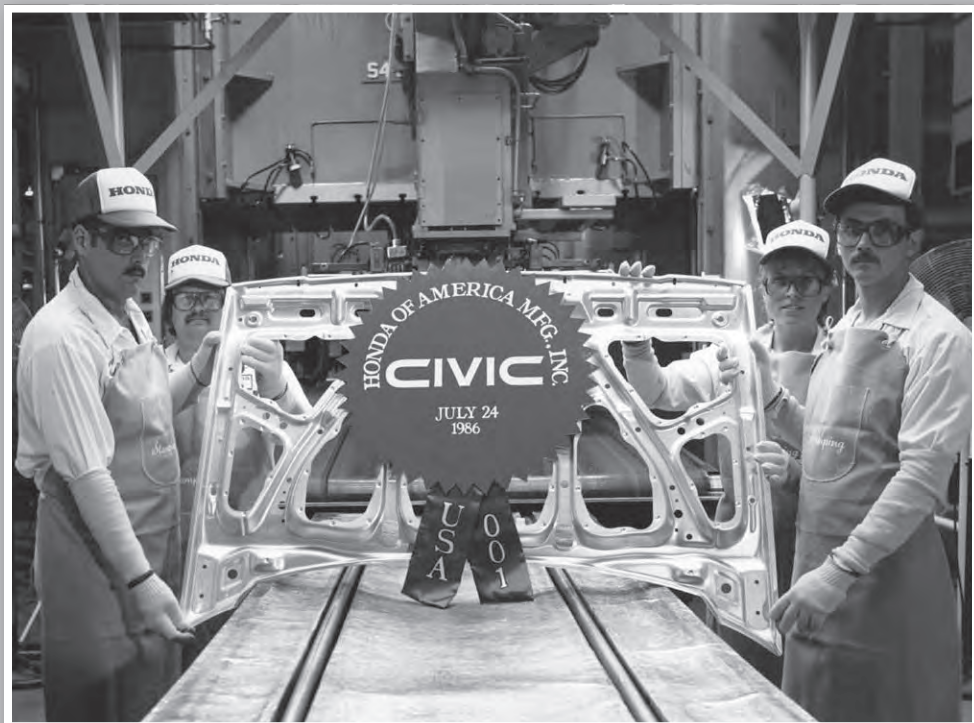
Covello, Joe (Black Star)
Docking the S. S. United States at South Hampton, England, August 1954
Silver print, 8 x 10 in. [Hagley Museum and Library PC20110517_796]



*Underwood and Underwood, N.Y.
Photographing New York City, 1911
Silver print, 8 x 10 in. [Hagley Museum and Library PC20110428_496]*



Anonymous
Workers gathered around a B-19 bomber under construction
at the Douglas Aircraft Company plant, Santa Monica, California, 1940
Silver print, 8 x 10 in. [Hagley Museum and Library PC20101230_005]



Anonymous
Workers in the stamping department of the Honda plant at Marysville, Ohio, show the hood inner
to be used in the first Honda Civic to be built in the United States, July 24, 1986
Silver print, 8 x 10 in. [Hagley Museum and Library PC20110309_538]



Parks, Gordon (1912-2006)
Fisherman, Gloucester, Massachusetts, 1944
Silver print, 10 x 8 in. [Hagley Museum
and Library PC20110512_759]

Bourke-White, Margaret (1904-1971)
Railroad cars loaded with aluminum ore, 1947
Silver print, 10 x 7 in. [Hagley Museum and Library PC20101230_006]



Anonymous
One-room school, location unknown, 1925
Silver print, 8 x 10 in. [Hagley Museum and Library PC20110309_526]



Anonymous
The Pickwick Dam powerhouse, Tennessee, built by the TVA, 1938
Silver print, 8 x 10 in. [Hagley Museum and Library PC20110314_569]



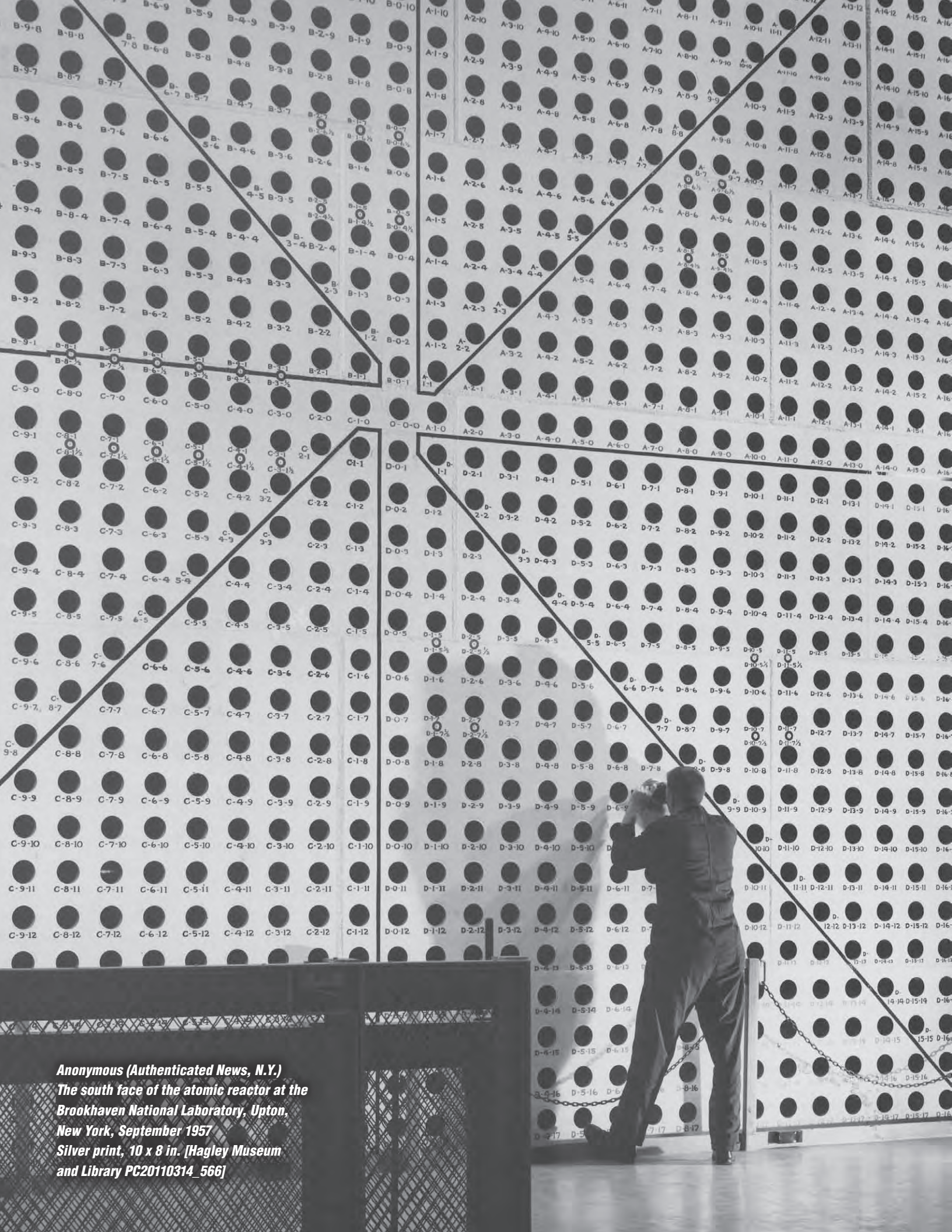
Richie, Robert Yarnall (1908-1984)
Setting a printing plate on a rotary press, 1953
 Silver print, 8 x 10 in. [Hagley Museum and Library PC20110411_963]



Lange, Dorothea (1895-1965)
Pea picker's home, Nipomo, California, 1936
 Silver print, 6 x 9 in. [Hagley Museum and Library PC20110512_755]



Hine, Lewis (1874-1940)
Old faithful - skilled machinist, 1925
 Silver print, 10 x 8 in. [Hagley Museum and Library PC20101230_008]



Anonymous (Authenticated News, N.Y.)
The south face of the atomic reactor at the Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York, September 1957
 Silver print, 10 x 8 in. [Hagley Museum and Library PC20110314_566]



McLean, B. C. (Soil Conservation Service)
The Dust Bowl in Baca County, Colorado, May 1940
 Silver print, 8 x 10 in. [Hagley Museum and Library PC20110404_821]



Anonymous (News Bureau, General Electric Company, Schenectady, NY)
Thomas A. Edison and Dr. Charles Proteus Steinmetz examining porcelain insulators that have been smashed by Steinmetz's "artificial lightning," 1922
 Silver print, 8 x 10 in. [Hagley Museum and Library PC20110427_461]



Anonymous
Proctor and Gamble Ivorydale production plant, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1930
Silver print, 8 x 10 in. [Hagley Museum and Library PC20110502_535]



Brown Brothers, N.Y.
Crowd in New York City outside the offices of the New York American
watching board with news on the sinking of the Titanic, 1912
Silver print, 5 x 7 in. [Hagley Museum and Library PC20110428_479]



Delano, Jack (1914-1997)
In the waiting room of Union Station,
Chicago, Illinois, 1943
Silver print, 8 x 10 in. [Hagley Museum
and Library PC20110308_513]

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