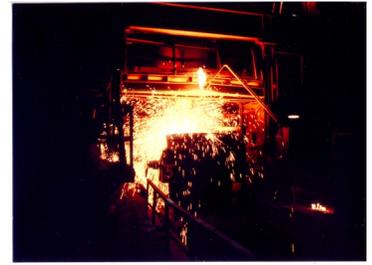




# STEELWORKERS' ARCHIVES

## “POURSPECTIVE” \*

\* *pour* (pôr, pōr), n. amount of molten metal poured at a time



Pour at Basic Oxygen Furnace (Photo from the Steelworkers' Archives Collection).

2015 Issue 1

February

Steelworkers' Archives, Inc.  
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### Committee Appointments:

#### Administration:

Susan L. Vitez

#### Archivist:

David Mitros

#### Bylaws:

Joshua Daly

#### Financial and Budget:

Frank A. Behum, Sr.

#### Membership:

Donna Silliman

#### Mission Interpretation:

Jill Schennum

#### Outreach:

Lester Clore

#### Ways and Means:

Mary Fernandes

#### Webmaster:

Scott Krycia

## President's Message “We have a story to tell ...”



The year 2015 presents a challenge to all members of the Steelworkers' Archives. We are only as strong as our membership allows. I challenge you to answer this question. “What can I do to help the SWA move forward in our relentless goal to ‘preserve the legacy of steelworkers?’” Like busy bees, we are always looking for help. We need worker bees. Can you help us?

If you want to become an active member, please notify me at fabbfrank1@yahoo.com or leave me a message in our office at 610-861-0600.

The following individuals were recently elected officers of the SWA for a two (2) year term: President, Frank A. Behum Sr.; Vice President, Earl Kurtz; Recording Secretary, Jill Schennum; Treasurer, Mark Cassano. Joshua Daly, Joe Mayer, and Carson Reinhard were made Trustees. Good luck to all of them in all endeavors on our behalf.

“Thank you” Dennis Pearson; Ken Ziegenfuss, Jr.; Mary Fernandes; Mike Pron; and Rick Walck, former Officers or Trustees, for your dedicated service to the Archives!

Our #1 priority remains obtaining interviews with steelworkers and their families, which also include office, Research Labs, and railroad staff. To schedule an interview, call our office at 610-861-0600 or send an email to SWA President Frank A. Behum, Sr. at fabbfrank1@yahoo.com.

We must prioritize our activities in order to best accomplish them. This year, 2015, I expect will produce excellent results and establish the Steelworkers' Archives as one of the premier nonprofit organizations in the Lehigh Valley.

Frank A. Behum, Sr.  
President

## Officers & Board

Frank A. Behum, Sr., President  
Earl Kurtz, Vice President  
Mark Cassano, Treasurer  
Jill Schennum, Secretary

Joshua Daly, Trustee  
Joe Mayer, Trustee  
Carson Reinhard, Trustee

Richie Check  
Lester Clore  
Mike Dzwonczyk, Board Chair  
Edward A. Leskin  
Dennis L. Pearson  
Tom Sedor  
Joe Straub  
Kenneth P. Ziegenfuss, Jr.

## Coordinator

Susan L. Vitez

## ... to preserve our legacy.

“He'll never be gone as long as you continue to tell the stories” was a sympathy message to a neighbor of a Steelworkers' Archives member following the death of his father.

The Steelworkers' Archives ongoing oral history project aims to interview as many steelworkers as possible. But, as time goes by, more and more steelworkers are passing away, leaving an irreplaceable void for their families and friends.

We are also interviewing family members and friends of deceased steelworkers. What better way to preserve their legacy than to tell their stories for future generations, so they will “never be gone.”

The interview can be conducted in our office or other location at your convenience.

We look forward to hearing from you. You can reach our office at 610-861-0600 to schedule an interview.

Thank you!



“Steeple and Steel” back in 2015!

Blast Furnaces with 1863 Stock house  
in the foreground:

## Essay Contest Winners

Electric Furnace Meltshop (EFM),  
BethForge Division:



In 2014, the Steelworkers' Archives sponsored an essay contest in grades 6, 7, and 8 in the Bethlehem Area School District. Students were asked to submit prose or poetry to describe the value of workers at Bethlehem Steel and how that related to the importance of steel production in the Lehigh Valley, the country, and the world. The Archives will sponsor the essay contest again this spring. The winner was Ava Lobach, Nitschmann Middle School, with a moving poem about steel. Second and third place winners were Clintonae Thomas and Marcus Rivera respectively. We present their winning entries below. Enjoy!



### First place:

#### ***Steel*** **by Ava Lobach**

Feel the heat as it floods your body.  
The machines work to preserve what remains.  
You know it's for a good cause.  
It doesn't faze you. This is normal.  
It's in your blood to make the steel.  
But, sadly, all good things come to an end.  
You traverse the factory for the last time.  
How will you go on without it?  
This is practically your home.  
The thought of leaving it behind is maddening.  
No more sound. No more heat. No more steel.  
You never thought this day would come.  
The silence is unnatural. How could this be happening?  
This isn't real. This is a dream. Soon you'll wake up.  
This is what you want to believe.  
No matter how hard you try, you don't wake up.  
This is happening. You're not dreaming.  
Painful reality sinks in. This IS real.  
You knew this would happen.  
You just thought you wouldn't be around for it.  
This place has been standing tall for years.  
It'll be impossible to destroy it.  
No. You'll preserve what's left.  
Memories are left behind, but not forgotten.  
The people here will always be family.  
Your home is gone. Your family leaves.  
Was it all for nothing? Was it pointless?  
No. You worked hard, and your work will be remembered.  
You can't stop the inevitable, but you can make the most of it.  
You can honor its memory, spread the word.  
You'll always carry those memories with you.  
Remember, memories never truly die.  
Share those memories.  
No matter what, you will never forget Bethlehem Steel.

### Second place:

#### ***Bethlehem Steel*** **by Clintonae Thomas**

Who am I?  
Am I my favorable future, my promising present,  
or my now not so peaceful past?  
To most I am a man, hardworking and strong.  
I have been through a lot but it wasn't for long.  
Started off poor, growing up in a slum.  
My mother made sure I had education from when I was young.  
When I got my first chance, it was honestly a blessing.  
A blessing like this had no time for any messing.  
It was a hardworking job for a hardworking man.  
Bethlehem Steel, God seemed to drop into my hands.  
Bethlehem Steel, working there came as fun.  
This was the job for me, I called it the ONE.  
  
Then years upon years passed by too fast.  
Final years the stress began to last.  
Pay checks, benefits, and people were getting cut.  
The best years of my life were summed up.  
The job I used to call the one was no longer fun,  
Bethlehem Steel fell tragically  
And so did my family.  
Bethlehem Steel was no longer a promising present.  
It was my children's future and their children's future.  
Eighteen fifty-seven through two thousand and three.  
Years to remember gleefully.  
My now not so peaceful past what defines me.  
Strongly built on the inside and out.  
And brought people together from the North and the South.  
Bethlehem Steel went through a drought.  
But that's not what it's all about.  
It's about the heritage, symbolism, and lessons taught.  
And about the hope the Steel brought.  
Bethlehem Steel will never be a lost thought.



**Essay Contest Winners continued**

**Third place:**

***Steel Man***  
**by Marcus Rivera**

As I turn the corner  
Within the fog the darkened metal stands  
Towers of rust and corrosion  
And now the emptiness has turned to dust, waiting for a mourner.

As I stare between the broken walls  
As the fog begins to lift  
The ghost of once was, whispers in my ear, and my name he calls  
I am a steel man, I am proud and rich.

My steel lies across the rivers, tunnels through the water connecting many lands.  
I am the George Washington, the Verrazano, and the Golden Gate  
The Empire State glistening in the sun.  
My steel fought in war, while sailing through the ocean's deep. Always staying true.  
I am a steel man, I am proud and noble.  
My workers build a union and my cost will soar  
Health care, pension and more  
The strong are now retiring, the pretty tour no more.

I am a steel man, I am proud and scared.  
My steel is falling from the list  
The banks are knocking at my door  
My wings are slowing, shutting down, disappearing in the mist.

I am a steel man, I am proud and tired.  
My walls are now shabby, my equipment is out of date  
The steel is overseas, my America has turned its back on me  
I have no answers to be spoken.

I am a steel man, I am proud, but told I am dead  
The heart, the soul and grime of the small city  
Lays on a metal gurney  
Memories live on, within the words that are spread  
I am a steel man and I am proud, but in the hearts of many not really dead.

***The Last Men of Bethlehem Steel***  
**by Charles McIlhaney, Jr.**

Forever seemed would be its reign,  
Whence for miles from east to west,  
Sprawled the hearths and mills and cranes  
That never stopped to rest.

And morning shone on open gates  
Where many a brass check gleamed  
Of generations come to earn their rate  
Under wing of the iconic "beam."

Now, idle relics rust in the setting sun.  
Yet, there are those remember thunderous wheels,  
And cogs of heavy industry spun—  
The last men of Bethlehem Steel.

And though quiet now by the river's edge,  
They heard the turbines whine,  
And felt the quake of pounding sledge,  
And rumble of roller lines.

Where bleak shadows loom when dark is nigh,  
They saw molten metal flow,  
And even fires lick the sky,  
And cherried ingots stand aglow.

And alas, the "brotherhood" of old  
Is but to archives sealed.  
Save for the ancient stories told  
By the last men of Bethlehem Steel.

Charles McIlhaney, Jr. was an employee of Bethlehem Steel for a total of 23 years. He worked in areas throughout the Bethlehem Plant, e.g. Steam, Water, and Air; Open Hearth Furnaces; Ingot Mould Foundry; Coke Works; No. 8 Machine Shop; East Lehigh Maintenance/#10 Treatment; and CSL (labor). He wrote *The Last Men of Bethlehem Steel* about one year ago and donated this wonderful poem to the Steelworkers' Archives.

Membership Dues: \$10.00 person / \$15.00 family

- 1) Payable online at [www.steelworkersarchives.com](http://www.steelworkersarchives.com)  
Click on "Contribute" & "Donate" (via PayPal)
- 2) By mail to either Frank or Donna:  
Steelworkers Archives Inc. Donna Silliman  
C/O Frank A. Behum Sr. 2004 Fernway Ave.  
3753 Old Philadelphia Pike Bethlehem, PA 18018  
Bethlehem, PA 18015
- 3) Payable in person at a monthly meeting

## Steel Shorts of Sports

**William L. Vitez**, a forty-three year steelworker and member of the Steelworkers' Archives, was a wrestler for Liberty High School. A member of the class of 1937, he lost only one time in his three-year high school career. As a sophomore, he defeated a wrestler from the University of Pennsylvania. He went on to become the 145 pound Lehigh Valley Amateur Wrestling Champion in 1939 as a member of the Clover Athletic Association.

Bill passed away in July 2014 at the age of 94. His family is honoring him by presenting two annual wrestling awards in his memory. The awards were publicly announced at a ceremony before the Liberty vs. Nazareth match on January 7, which also included a moment of silence. The "Vitez Outstanding Wrestler Award" will be given at the Liberty vs. Bethlehem Catholic match. The "William L. Vitez Brave Warrior Award" will be presented in March to the Liberty wrestler "who distinguished himself during the season, showing the courage and determination Bill showed throughout his life."

Bill was recognized by Liberty High School as "one of our distinguished alumni." A feature article about Bill was published in the wrestling season and match programs.

Brad Wilson of *The Express-Times* also covered the outstanding wrestler award, of which he wrote "just radiates class." He described Bill as

## Back by Popular Demand ...

Two events Steelworkers' Archives offered in 2014 will be back!

We received grant funding from the Northampton County Hotel Tax Grant Program again this year to present "**Steeple and Steel.**" These minibus tours, led in partnership with the South Bethlehem Historical Society, provide historic interpretation of the steel mill, steel work, and South Side Bethlehem churches and the connections with churches that were central to ethnic steel working communities.

The "Steeple and Steel" tours were well received last year, and we already received inquiries this year. Our planning committee will meet soon. The tours will be publicized extensively once dates and churches are selected. Tours will leave from St. John's Windish Lutheran Church, which will also host an open house with tours of the sanctuary, the steelworkers' "overtime" lunches, and exhibits by participating churches and community organizations.

Our very popular "**Steelwalker**" walking tours of the Bethlehem Plant site will also resume in the spring. The tours leave from the Bethlehem Visitor Center and are led by former steelworkers who "walked the walk and can do the talk." The tour includes the retelling of steel plant lore and accounts of work life experiences, as well as a discussion of plant facilities, including the Blast Furnaces, Stock House (now the Visitor Center), Iron Foundry, Electric Furnace Meltshop (EFM), Central Tool and Central Tool Annex, Corporate and Plant Offices, Electrical Repair Shop, Blowing Engine House, and the Hoover-Mason Trestle. Tour dates will be selected soon and publicized on the Steelworkers' Archives and ArtsQuest websites: [www.steelworkersarchives.com](http://www.steelworkersarchives.com) and [www.artsquest.org/tours](http://www.artsquest.org/tours).

"legendary Liberty wrestler" and "one of the best wrestlers in the pre-state tournament era."

The "Vitez Outstanding Wrestler Award" was presented at the conclusion of the match on January 28 to Liberty sophomore, KJ Fenstermacher. KJ is the grandson of Jack Fenstermacher, who was an electrical maintenance foreman, 414 Department, in Saucon Mills and Saucon Shipping Yards.



## Join us for these events through June 2015:

Board and Membership meetings are held at the Northampton Community College Fowler Family Southside Center, 511 E. Third Street, at 6:30 PM.

### February 2015:

- 9 ... Membership meeting; Room 521
- 27 ... Bon-Ton Community
- 28 ... Days at Westgate Mall

### March 2015:

- 4 ... Board meeting; Room 627
- 9 ... Membership meeting; Room 523
- 28 ... History Expo at Lehigh Valley Heritage Museum, 432 Walnut St., Allentown, PA; 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

### April 2015:

- 13 ... Membership meeting; Room 521

### May 2015:

- 6 ... Board meeting; Room 627
- 11 ... Membership meeting; Room 521

### June 2015:

- 8 ... Board meeting; Room TBA
- 19 ... B/MSSCA flag raising ceremony and luncheon ([www.bmssca.org](http://www.bmssca.org))

Coming in a future issue of "Pourspective":



The Sintering Plant