

Street TALK

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From B-24s to Trucks & Buses

Here's a brief look into the past and present operations of the International Engine plant in Melrose Park, Illinois.



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Manufacturing at Melrose Park, Illinois

The B-24 "Liberator" — During World War II, this heavy bomber was produced in greater numbers than any other American combat aircraft and was used by Allied air forces in Europe, the Pacific, Africa, and the Middle East. In 1941, the U.S. Government constructed an aviation plant in Melrose Park, Illinois, to manufacture engines for these aircraft. In all, over 75,000 engines were shipped from this one plant.



In 1946, International Harvester, now International Truck and Engine Corporation, purchased the plant for its construction equipment and engine businesses and began engineering, manufacturing, and assembling a variety of diesel engines and construction equipment products.



Today, inside its 1.5 million sq. ft. floor space, the Melrose Park Plant produces medium duty truck engines used in Class 6-7 trucks, buses, and large pickups. These International engines, known for their reliability, durability,

and wide range of capabilities, are produced at a rate of 600 to 800 a day.

But not all engine components are manufactured in Illinois.

Engine blocks arrive from the Indianapolis foundry by truck. Previously, these blocks were strapped to wooden pallets and held in place with metal bands. The bands had to be cut, then the blocks unloaded and repositioned onto the staging area. The wooden pallets and straps were then hauled away and stored for recycling while taking up valuable floor space. This was a two man job.



Using steel pallets provided by Streater Dependable, the blocks are now shipped three to a pallet. They're unloaded and stacked two pallets high in what are called "six-packs." Then it's a simple process of loading the six-packs onto conveyor "speed lanes" and removing the empties. The empty pallets are stacked eight high, then loaded onto a semi trailer and sent back to Indianapolis for the next load.

Initially, International called on Streater Dependable to design a pallet. Engine



blocks were shipped to Streator so Dependable's engineers could design a pallet that was made-to-order, one strong enough to hold the engine blocks securely during shipping and one that would fit directly into International's staging area, thus eliminating any extra handling at the Melrose operation.

As International's Process Development Engineer stated, "We were looking for a supplier that would work with us to design a custom pallet that was cost effective. Cost is what drove the project. We originally had plastic pallets, but they did not hold up. Then we looked at a combination of steel and plastic, but the costs rose dramatically. In the end, Dependable designed an all-steel pallet at about half the cost."

Once International personnel approved the design, a prototype was built and International engineers came to Streator for some "minor tweaks and design changes" and ultimately gave final approval for the build schedule.

Painted serial numbers on each pallet make for easy tracking, and indicator marks match up with the camber on the engine blocks so each block is positioned exactly the same on every pallet.

Over one million engines have shipped from the Melrose Park facility, a division of Navistar International Corporation. And with International's achievement of QS-9000 registration and unparalleled levels of quality and performance, Industry Week magazine recently named Melrose Park as one of the top 25 plants in America. Streator Dependable is proud to support their progress.



Laser Cutting – As part of our ongoing program to provide our customers with the most advanced and cost effective manufacturing services, we recently added a new Bystronic 6,000 watt laser system. With a close tolerance of .004", this laser will handle steel sizes up to 5' x 10' by one inch thick.





Coffee Break Quotes

A little boy told his mom when he came home from school one day that he was in love with a girl in his class. His mom asked, "How do you know you're in love?" The boy responded, "She told me."



A Texan was picked up by a taxi at the Sydney airport. He started a tirade about how small the airport was, declaring that back in Texas there are bigger runways on ranches. As they crossed the Sydney harbor, he told the driver they had bigger duck ponds back home. In fact, the Texan had a disparaging comment to make about every feature they encountered on their drive to the hotel. But the cab driver had the last word. When a kangaroo jumped in front of the cab, causing a sudden and severe stop, the driver said, "Stupid grasshopper."



Upon coming downstairs to inspect the shipments of imported crystal vases leaving the plant, the foreman approached his new packer, the boss's nephew. He put his arm around the boy's shoulder. "Well, Jason,



excellent work. I see you did what I asked. Thanks for stamping the top of each box, "THIS SIDE UP, HANDLE WITH CARE." "Yes sir," Jason replied. "And just to be safe, I stamped it on the bottom, too."



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About one hundred years ago, this is what life was like in the United States:

The average life expectancy in the United States was forty-seven.

Only 14 percent of the homes in the United States had a bathtub.

Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone. A three-minute call from Denver to New York City cost eleven dollars.

There were only 8,000 cars in the U.S. and only 144 miles of paved roads.

The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph. Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa, and Tennessee were each more heavily populated than California. With a mere 1.4 million residents, California was only the twenty-first most populous state in the Union.

The average wage in the U.S. was twenty-two cents an hour. The average U.S. worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.

A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per year, a dentist \$2500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1500 and \$4000 per year, and a mechanical engineer about \$5000 per year.

More than 95 percent of all births took place at home.

Ninety percent of all U.S. physicians had no college education. Instead, they attended medical schools, many of which were considered substandard by the government.

Sugar cost four cents a pound. Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen. Coffee cost fifteen cents a pound.

Most women only washed their hair once a month and used borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

The five leading causes of death in the U.S. were:
 1. Pneumonia and influenza 2. Tuberculosis
 3. Diarrhea 4. Heart disease 5. Stroke.

Plutonium, insulin, and antibiotics hadn't been discovered yet. Scotch tape, crossword puzzles, canned

beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented.

There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.

Only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.

Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at corner drugstores.

There were about 230 reported murders in the U.S. annually.

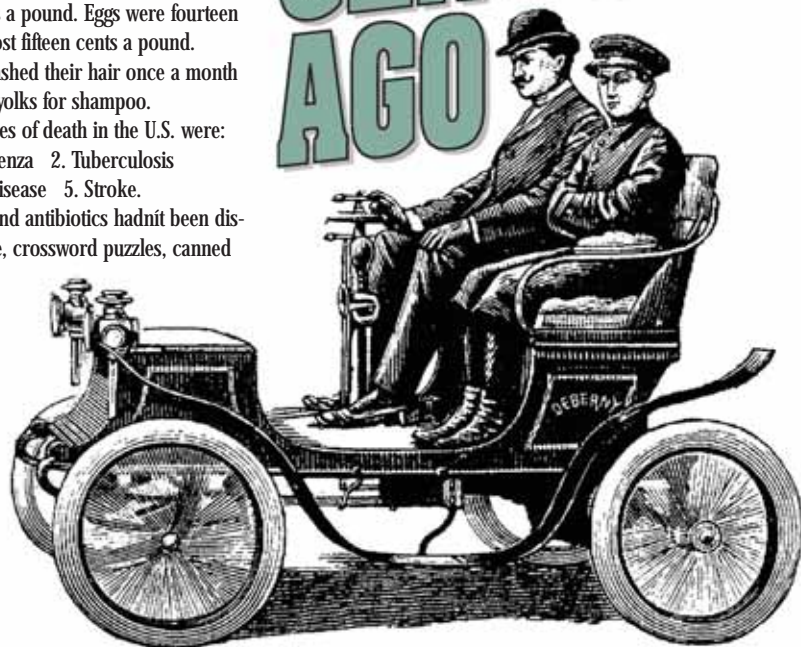
Coca-Cola contained cocaine instead of caffeine.

The population of Las Vegas, Nevada was thirty. The remote desert community was inhabited by only a handful of ranchers and their families.

The American flag had 45 stars. Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Hawaii and Alaska hadn't been admitted to the Union yet.

Drive-by-shootings in which teenage boys galloped down the street on horses and started randomly shooting at houses, carriages, or anything else that caught their fancy were an ongoing problem in Denver and other cities in the West.

ONE CENTURY AGO



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