

Chapter 8 Vocabulary – Machine Shop of the World

Street cars

Foundry – factory that makes things out of metal

“playing hookey” –taking off work or school when you’re not supposed to.

Tinkerer – inventor

Centers of industry – Walker’s Point, Menomonee Valley

1890 – beer was most important product

1910 – 57% of men worked in industry

1917 – Harley Davidson made 18,000 motorcycles a year (first made bicycles)

Labor problems in factories in late 1800s:

1. 10-12 hour days, no benefits, no weekends off, \$1.25/day (= \$2.00/day today)
Kids age 12+ working full-time
2. Knights of Labor – national organization, trade union, wanted 8-hour day and end to child labor.
3. May 1, 1886, strike started in Philadelphia and went national.
4. May 4, 14,000 people (half the workers in Milwaukee, mostly Poles) were on strike
5. May 5, Bayview incident - Governor Rusk called out militia (National Guard)
7 dead, including one 12-year-old

Politics

People’s Party (labor leader Robert Schiller) tried to get candidates elected in 1890s.

Some important companies from turn of the century

- Falk – made gears for mines, steel wheels, Panama Canal locks (started as a brewer, then invented method for casting metal and sold brewery to Pabst)
- Nordberg – diesel engines
- Harnischfeger – Walkers Point (now called P&H Mining Co.)
- AO Smith - auto frames
- Kerney and Treker - machine tools
- Allen-Bradley
- Allis Reliance Works
- Allis Chalmers (West Allis) – heavy machinery, 37th and Highland

(Update: in 2006, the Falk factory in the Menomonee Valley exploded, 3 people killed, many injured. Lawsuit pending.)