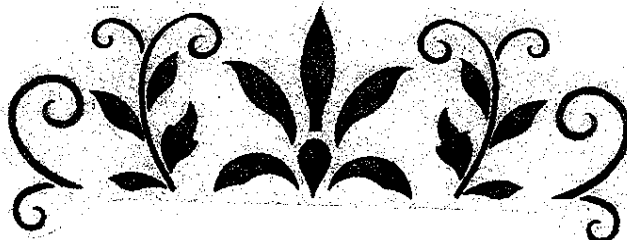


This book tells the story of the life of Alden Potter Edson. Mr. Edson himself tells of his journey throughout time.

Alden Edson is an extraordinary individual. As you will read, he has endured many challenges. He would tell you that life is hard. He has faced many obstacles; however, he never let them dictate how he was going to live his life.

The stories in the beginning of the book are stories that have been passed down from generation to generation. He goes on to share the memories of his life.

The following pages will give you insight to this amazing individual.



Alden Edson Family History Mid to late 1800's

My great grandmother was Katherine Elizabeth Brown. She was a titled English woman at birth and very strong willed.

She traveled with her father from England to Canada on a mission for the king and it was there that she met her future husband, my great grandfather. His name was Henry Brown.

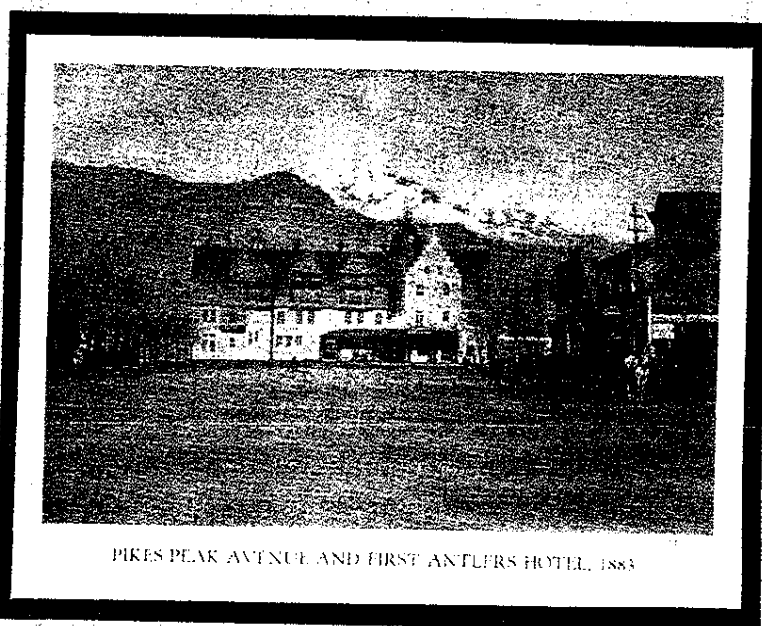
The first time he saw my great grandmother, she was walking out of a church. At that time he turned to his first mate and said "I'm going to marry that girl."

Henry Brown, my great grandfather, was an uncompromising American. He also was born in England. He was the third son in the family and stood to inherit nothing. In this light, at age 13 he packed his bags and left for America.

He ended up owning and operating sailing vessels between the United States, the British Isles, and Western Europe. They married in Canada and then moved to the United States.

Henry and Katherine had seven sons and one daughter. The daughter was my grandmother, Henrietta Brown. She was a magnificent lady who half raised me.

My grandmother married a fellow with the last name of Potter. They were only married a short time. They had one daughter. Her name was Irene Brown Potter and she was my mother. My grandfather left my grandmother due to difficulties with his mother-in-law, my great grandmother, Katherine. He knew they were a package deal and he wasn't able to live with it. He ended up moving to Colorado Springs and managed what is now the Antlers Hotel.



I was very close to my grandmother and I loved her dearly. She was a dear and delightful lady.

My grandmother taught me my ethical education. She would ask me questions beyond my ability for my age at the time. One question she asked me is this:
"Every Sunday morning your mother and I go out. We have a large house on the corner. There is a patrolman on duty. When we walk outside, he would stop the cars to let us cross. We would 'saunter' across the street diagonally. When we crossed, the patrolman would let the cars go on.
What do you think about the patrolman's behavior?" She sent me away to think.
I came back with my answer. "I believe he was just being a nice man who is letting two ladies cross the street."
She told me "No, that is not right. Think about the people we delayed. The doctor that was going to help his patients, the mother who was on her way to the grocery store to get food for the family. Think about them."
I was to go away and ponder the question more.
I never did find out the true answer from my grandmother. I believe she just wanted me to think about it.

An additional part of my ethical education was listening to my grandmother talk about who *we* were as a family.

If there was a line to wait for something, *we* would stand at the back of it and let all the others go first.

We were different.

We were more capable.

We were the people who took care of others.



I never really knew my paternal relatives. My father died when I was just 3 or 4 years old. My relatives stated that my grandmother was a Canadian Mohawk Indian and strikingly beautiful.

My father was a very prominent civil engineer. He was engaged in a variety of projects. Most notable was the building of the Shoshone (Buffalo Bill) Dam in Wyoming. He completed it right before I was born.

My mother was a very competent pianist.

Buffalo Bill Dam



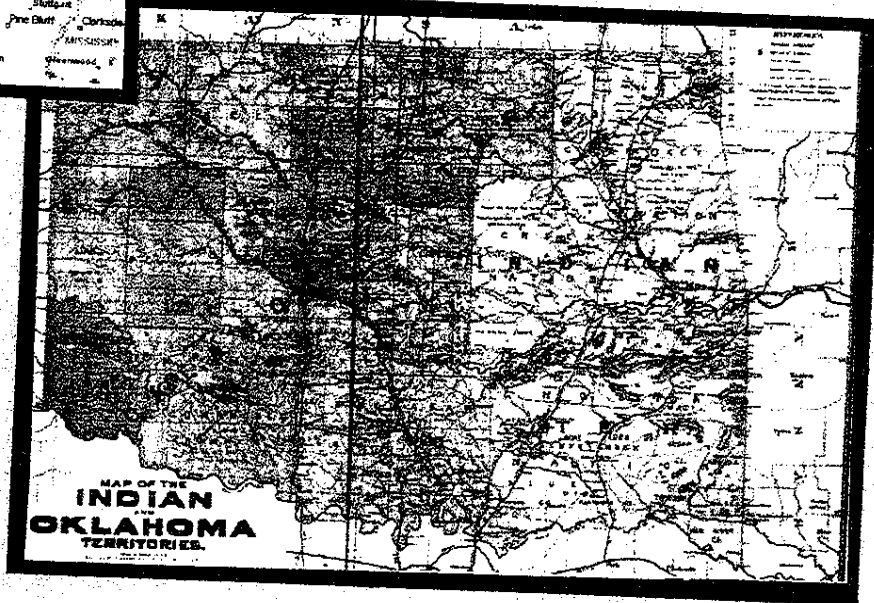
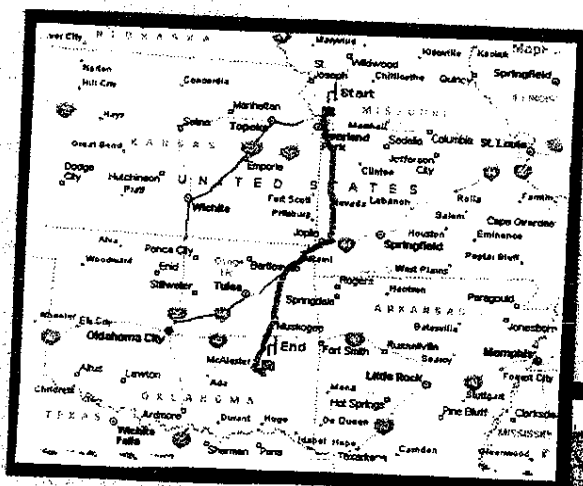
The Dam is located just 5 miles west of Cody, Wyoming.



1914 - 1924

I was born to James Oliver Edson and Irene Brown Potter in Kansas City, Missouri. I am the youngest of three children; my brother James is the oldest, then my sister Patricia, and I was born two years later, on November 3, 1914.

Shortly after I was born, my father left to start a cement plant in Hartshorne, Oklahoma. My mother was not going to stay in Kansas City with three young children, so after Christmas we moved to be with my father in Hartshorne, Oklahoma.

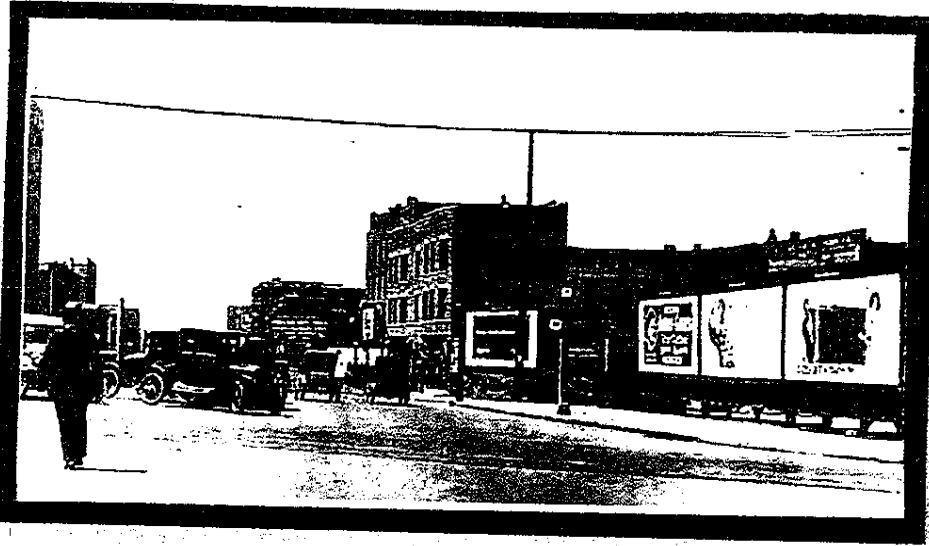


There were thirteen different tribes of Indians around Hartshorne at this time.

We were in Oklahoma just three years, when the plant closed due to World War I. The government needed the trucks and the men went to war.

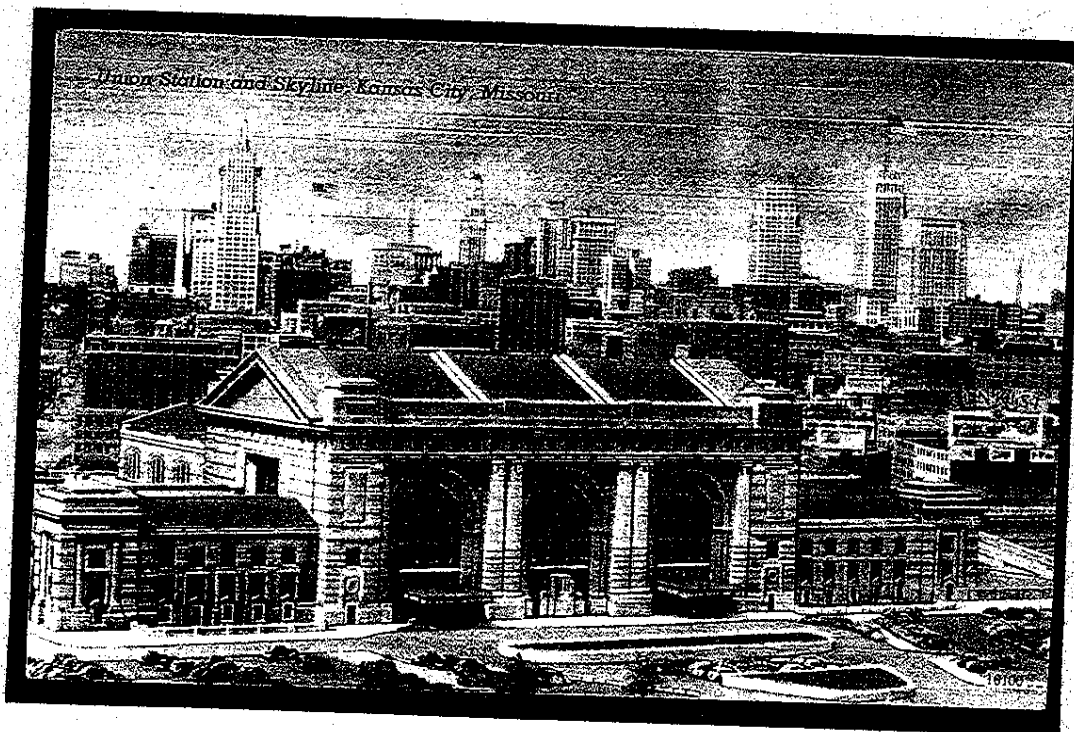
Due to the plant closing, we moved to Overland Park, Kansas. I was just 3 years old. My dad was often out of town on jobs, and I rarely saw him.

Times were turbulent in Kansas. Within a year of moving to Overland Park, we again made a move to Kansas City.



Kansas City in
the 1920's

I never really knew my father. He called one day from Union Station, Kansas City and reported to my mother that he had contracted Spanish Influenza and was waiting for a cab to take him to Mercy Hospital. He died shortly thereafter.



My maternal grandmother, Henrietta Brown lived with us. She died of breast cancer shortly after my father died. My mother had her world collapse around her. She could no longer care for her children because she had endured so much grief.

I grew very fond of a woman named Hattie. My mother hired her when we moved to Kansas City. She raised us for a period of time and I have a soft spot in my heart for her. She was really quite a woman. I had enormous respect for her. I was scared stiff when my mother had her nervous breakdown. Hattie was a significant influence in my life.

My school age years were very difficult. I never had a sense of security. My mother was essentially not available, and our financial concerns were mounting. Hattie had to leave us because we could no longer afford her.

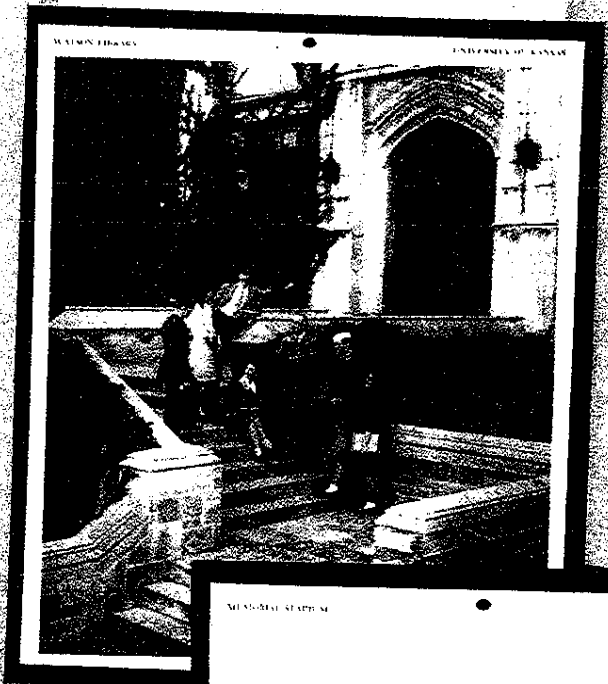


Kansas City in the 1920's

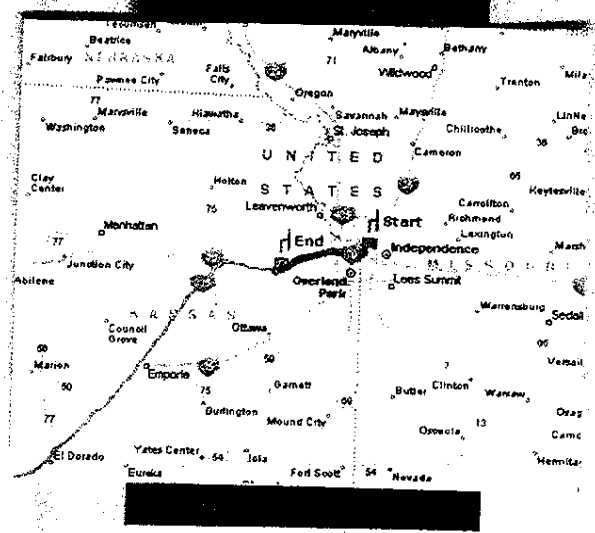
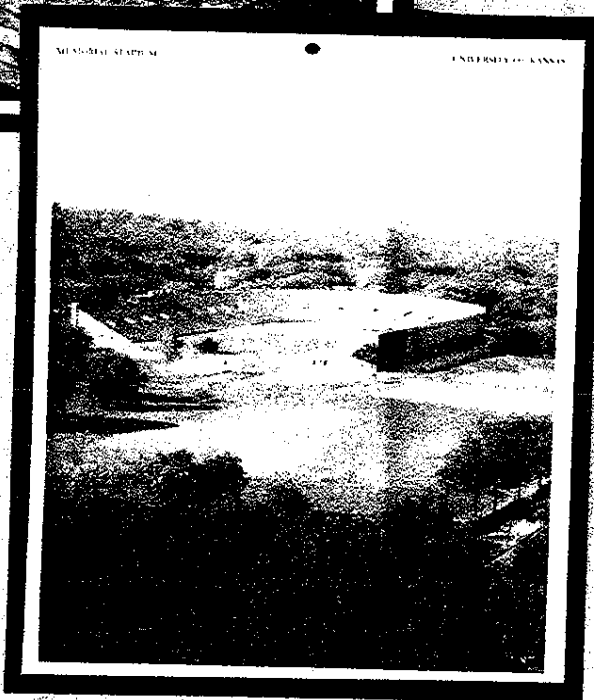
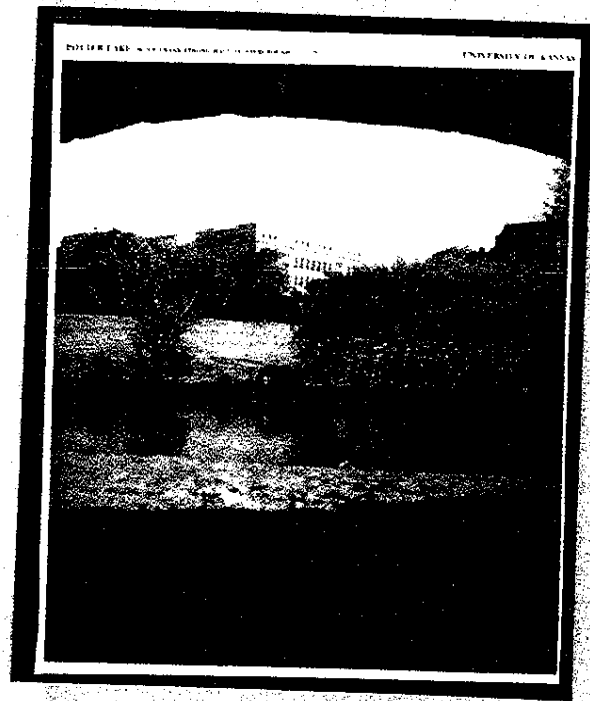
1924-1937

To help with our financial concerns, I took odd jobs as a commercial photographer and a radio repairman. We struggled deeply with poverty. One Christmas we pooled our money together and came up with a dollar. We were poor.

My siblings and I graduated from Westport High School in Kansas City. My brother said "the three of us are going to go to college." We figured out a way to get to Lawrence Kansas and enroll at the University of Kansas (KU). My mother moved with us to Lawrence. I graduated from college with a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering in 1937.



Photos from KU



1938-1955

The years following my graduation from Kansas University were some of my favorite years. It was the first time in my life that I can remember having enough money to pay all my bills and have some left over.

My first job was working for The International Nickel Company in the research labs. The research labs were located in Bayonne, New Jersey. I lived with my wife in Jersey City.



A New Bed for a Restless River

— how "Your Unseen Friend" helps keep the flood from your door

QUAD MAN RIVER never gets easy. All year long, he twists and turns in his bed. And, in the spring, he sometimes forgets he's shy. He leaves his bed, spreads across the lowlands, floods homes, and sweeps over rich farm lands on which cities depend for food.

When this happens, the flood control experts get busy. They bring up dredges to make a new bed that's straighter and wider and deeper... as the river won't overflow its banks.

These dredges are big and tough and well-designed.

They have to be. They must gulp tons of mud, sand, and gravel. Force it up through pumps at high speed.

And then pump it out through big, long steel pipes onto the surrounding land.

This calls for tough metal parts. And that's where Nickel comes into the picture.

Sometimes it's used in the outer heads that show up partly still.

Sometimes it's used in the pumps or sills. It may be in the form of Nickel steel castings or Nickel cast iron. ("Ni-hard"). But whatever the form, these Nickel alloys have what it takes to stand up to the harsh scraping action of fast-moving sand and gravel.

When you see a powerful dredger making a new river bed, or a big bulldozer clearing off land... when

dredgers tame wild rivers by cutting tons of mud, sand, gravel... forcing it through pumps at high speed... pumping it out onto the surrounding land.

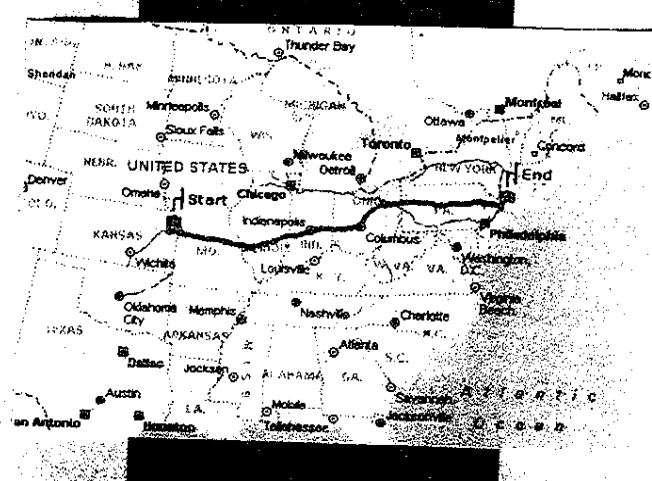
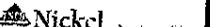
you see the defense products industry is turning out... you can be sure Nickel is working for you (and the ship).

You don't see the Nickel because it's interested with other metals... adding toughness, hardness, resistance, and other special properties. That's why Nickel is known as "Your Unseen Friend."

For the Longest Stand: When these Nickel alloys form... they make the dredger's head... the part that scrapes up mud... they last longer... than any other material... of their kind.

For the Longest Stand: When these Nickel alloys form... they make the dredger's head... the part that scrapes up mud... they last longer... than any other material... of their kind.

THE INTERNATIONAL NICKEL COMPANY, INC.



A Friend in Need... the Nickel in Your Neighbor's 'Jeep'

A friend in need is a friend indeed.

The friend is the Nickel in your neighbor's "Jeep." The friend is the steel that gives impulsion to your driving when you're snowed under.

The four-wheel work horse, "Jeep" is built, because many a part of extra strength and toughness from Nickel. Jeep steel contains Nickel standard in all areas, wear and tear.

For these reasons, automotive engineers use Nickel alloys in their "Jeeps" wherever their extra strength is needed.

In many, many "Jeeps" you see every day, Nickel serves as your "Friend." That's why Nickel is called "Your Unseen Friend."

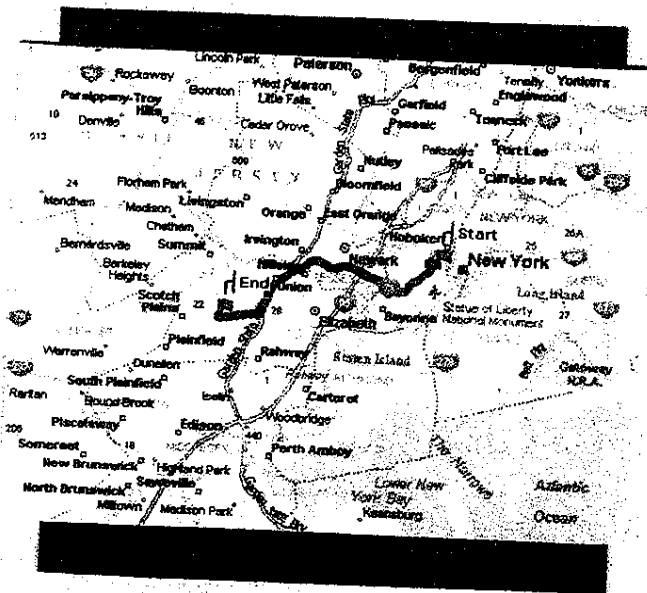
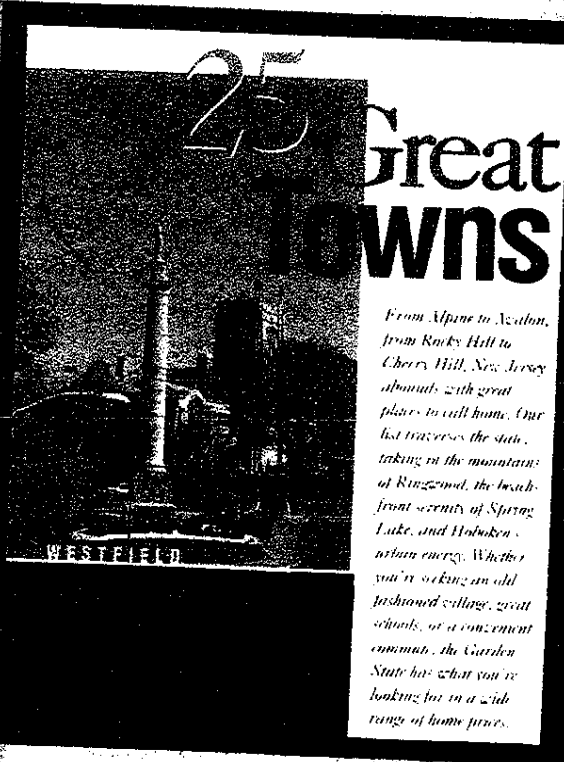
Write for your free copy of "The Story of Nickel." The story of the metal that gives impulsion to your driving when you're snowed under.

THE INTERNATIONAL NICKEL COMPANY, INC.



I met my wife accidentally. I was fresh out of college and knew only one way to meet girls; at church. Her name was Mary Gilbert Gordon Forest. We were married in 1939. She was Scottish and born in Glasgow, Scotland. Her father was a Gilbert, and her mother a Gordon.

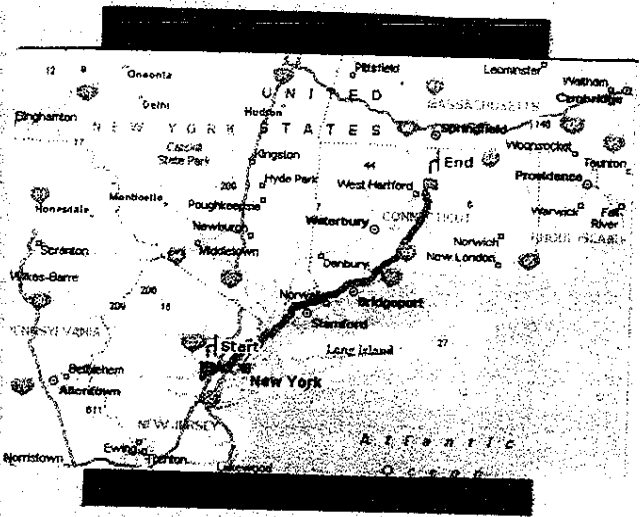
We decided to build a house in Westfield, New Jersey. We moved into it on the start of our second year of marriage.



Jersey City, New Jersey to Westfield, New Jersey

We had a beautiful daughter named Ellen. She was the "light in my eye." On Christmas Eve 1943, I decided to surprise Mary and Ellen with a Christmas tree. When I brought it home, I found Mary, who was due any day with our second child, not looking well. We rushed her to the hospital where she later died of eclampsia. Our newborn son died as well.

After Mary's death, I decided to make a change. I went to work for United Aircraft as an Engineer, in Hartford Connecticut. I worked at United Aircraft from 1943-1955.



PRATT & WHITNEY AIRCRAFT

TEAMING UP
for Aircraft Engine Production

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UNITED AIRCRAFT CORPORATION
EAST HARTFORD - CONNECTICUT

Ellen and I moved from Westfield, New Jersey to a suburb of Hartford, Connecticut. It was there that my daughter went to a circus with one of her teachers, and the tent caught on fire. Ellen was rushed to the hospital where she later died.

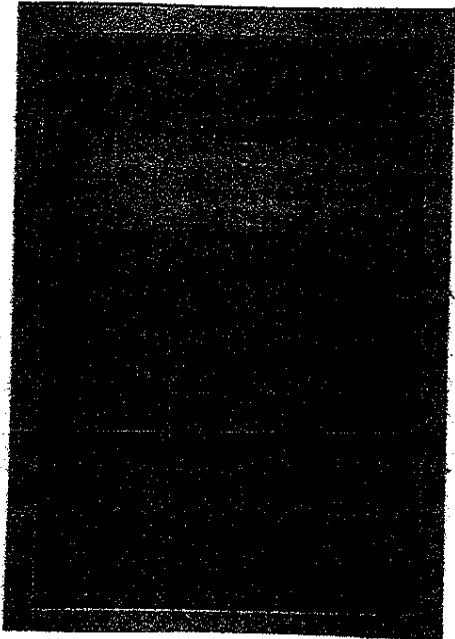
It was at United Aircraft that I met and married my second wife, Mary Jane Norton. We married in 1949. She worked for United Aircraft as well.

My career with United Aircraft was rewarding. I received four or five patents for gaseous fluxes for adjoining metals.

I was listed in "Who Knows - And What among Authority, Experts, and the Specially Informed" as an expert on metal failures.

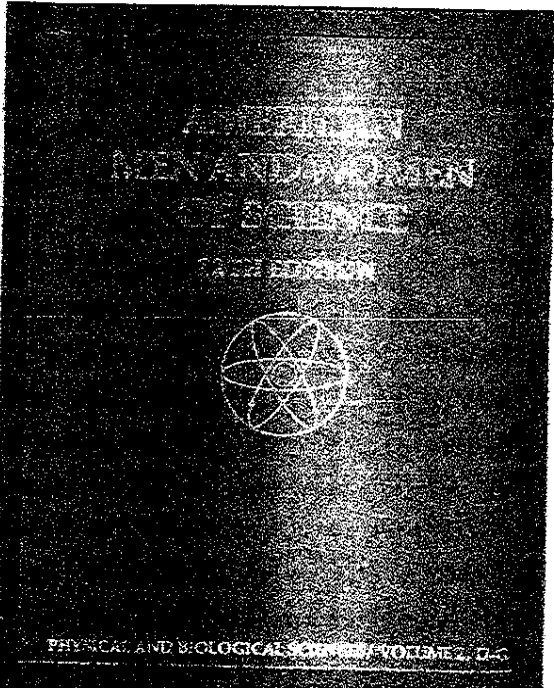
19 EDSON, Alden P (Otter), Metallurgist (Steel, physical); M. S. Edson, 1111 High St (H. K. S.). Metallurgist, research and development, development of gaseous fluxes for bearing and power metallurgy applications, investigations in chemical and metallurgical processing of metals; studies of stress and prevention of metal failures, weldability and machinability of steels. Author: Weld Hardening and Steel Composition, Metallurgical Institute of A.S.T.M., No. 37-43; Hamilton Standard Div. United Aircraft Corp., Propellers Division, East Hartford, Conn., 1943-44; chief metallurgist since 1945. Am. Soc. Metals, Hamilton Standard Division, United Aircraft Corporation, Windsor Locks, Conn., 11; 19; 44; 45; 46; 47; 48; 49; 50; 51; 52; 53; 54; 55; 56; 57; 58; 59; 60; 61; 62; 63; 64; 65; 66; 67; 68; 69; 70; 71; 72; 73; 74; 75; 76; 77; 78; 79; 80; 81; 82; 83; 84; 85; 86; 87; 88; 89; 90; 91; 92; 93; 94; 95; 96; 97; 98; 99; 100.

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I was also listed in the annually published book of "Who's Who among Engineers" and "American Men and Women of Science" as an expert on metal failures.

EDSON, ALDEN P (OTTER), b. Kansas City, Mo. Nov. 3, 14; m. 48. METALLURGICAL ENGINEERING. B.S. Kansas, 37. Metallurgist, Int. Nickel Co. N.J., 37-43; sr. metallurgist, Hamilton Standard Div. United Aircraft Corp. 43, asst. chief metallurgist, 44-45, chief metallurgist, 45-51, chief mat. engr. 51-56; RES. ASSOC. INT. NICKEL CO. INC. 56- Am. Inst. Mining, Metall. & Petrol. Eng; Am. Soc. Metals; Inst. Elec. & Electronics Eng; Electrochem. Soc. Batteries; fuel cells; magnetostrictive materials; iron-nickel alloys; electrical and electronic alloys. Address: 199 Parkside Dr. Suffern, NY 10901.

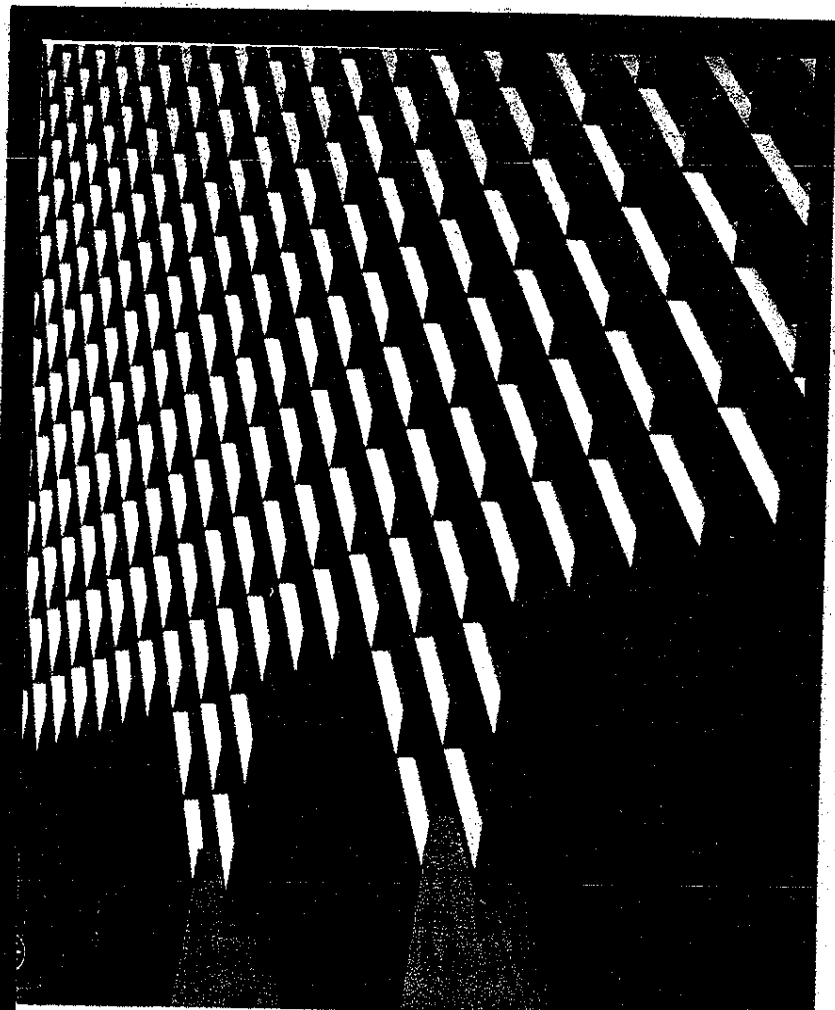
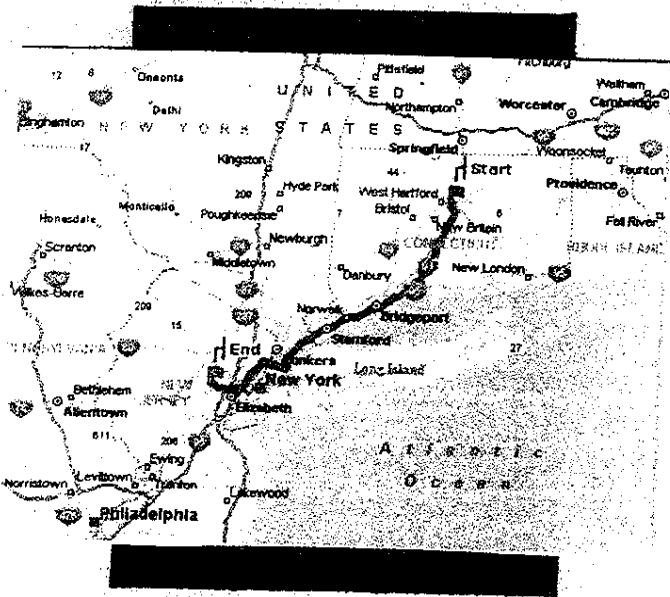


During this time I co-authored a book on Analysis and Prevention of Metal Failures, however, it never got published.

Later in my career at United Aircraft, my mother, who had moved in with my sister Patricia Tombaugh and her husband Clyde, died of brain cancer in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

1955-1964

In 1955 I left United Aircraft as the Chief Materials Engineer to go back to work for The International Nickel Company. The headquarters were located at 67 Wall Street, New York City. We moved to New Jersey. Later, we bought a house in Chatham, New Jersey.



Did it cost more to add the elegant beauty of nickel stainless steel to this building?
 No. It cost less.

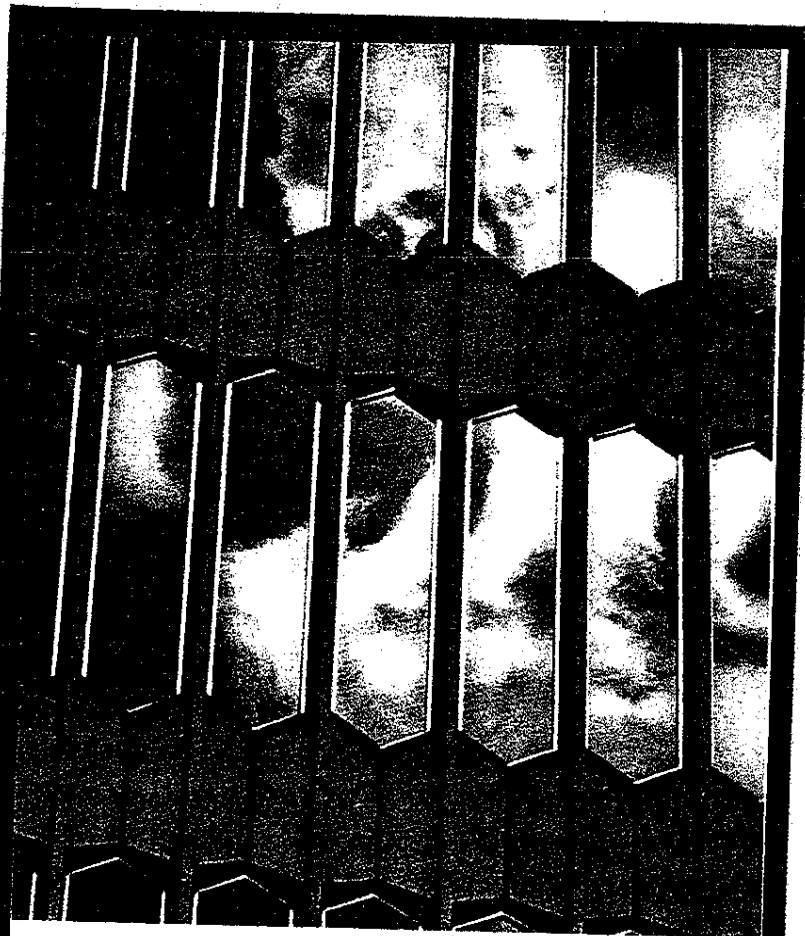
By taking advantage of the economies of scale, the designers were able to use the nickel stainless steel in a way that was both aesthetically pleasing and cost-effective. The nickel stainless steel was used in a way that was both aesthetically pleasing and cost-effective. The nickel stainless steel was used in a way that was both aesthetically pleasing and cost-effective.



International Nickel, New York, N.Y. 10005

I traveled frequently with The International Nickel Company (INCO). My suitcase was always packed at the door ready to go on a moment's notice. I traveled throughout the United States, Canada, United Kingdom and Western Europe. I can get by speaking French, German and "limp along" in Russian. At INCO I handled most problems related to electronic devices and physical instruments. I got all the oddball, difficult problems and I enjoyed it. I was frequently able to suggest suitable materials and better ways of making things.

It was at The International Nickel Company that I ended up taking early retirement.



Do you want your building to say these things for you?

CONTEMPORARY
ENDURING
FORWARD LOOKING
MAINTENANCE CONSCIOUS

Nickel stainless steel helps you say them.

In this building, distinctively designed windows of nickel stainless steel provide a look of quality and enduring beauty. Nickel stainless steel windows are also strong, rugged, and the least expensive to maintain. They are competitive in cost with other materials when designed to take full advantage of stainless steel's great strength and corrosion resistance. If you are considering building or remodeling, write for booklet on stainless steel in architecture, Dept. L-1.

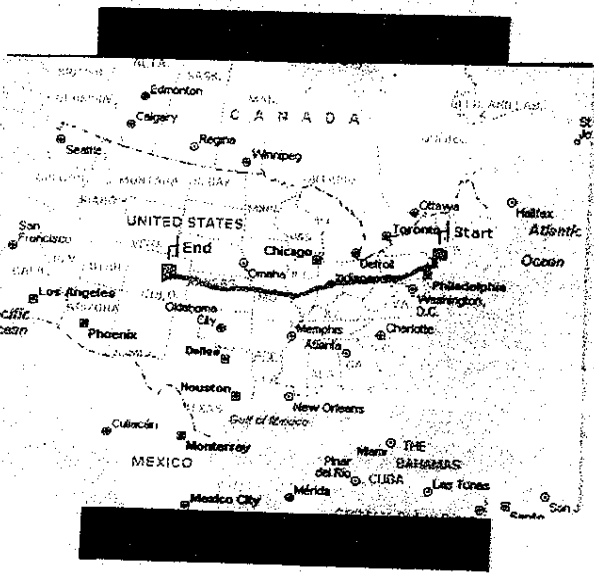
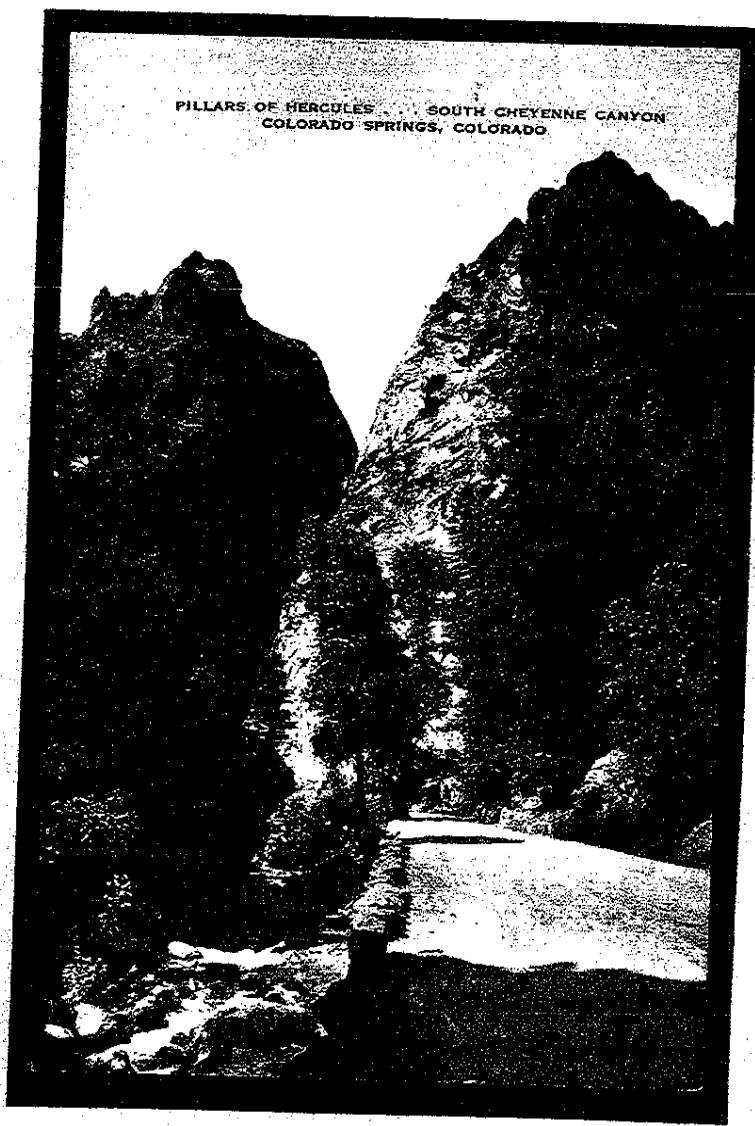


International Nickel, New York, N. Y. 10005

1964- Present

After I retired from The International Nickel Company, Mary Jane and I traveled throughout Europe for a month.

We tossed the idea around of moving to Colorado Springs. My brother lived there and enjoyed it. I enjoy the mountains as well as the environment of the southwest. I feel at home in the southwest, more so than any other place that I have lived. So, we decided to retire in Colorado Springs, Colorado.



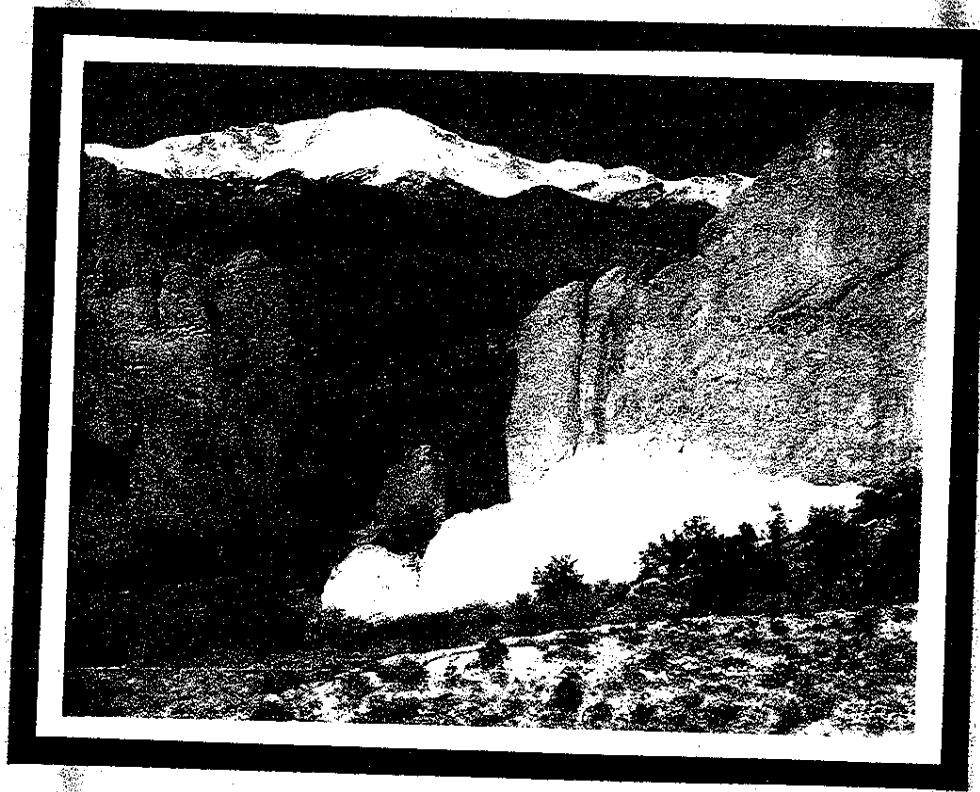
I dabbled in small business management for a short time while in retirement, but decided that it was not for me.

I enjoyed reading, and am likely to know a little bit about almost anything.

My sister Patricia Tombaugh currently lives in Las Cruces, New Mexico. She moved there from Flagstaff, Arizona with her husband Clyde Tombaugh when he was finished with his Masters Degree. Clyde Tombaugh discovered the planet Pluto prior to having a college education. My sister is quite a girl, really. She could sweet talk the devil. I have a great amount of respect and love for her. She stays in the background but plays a very important role.

My wife, Mary Jane Edson, died on March 1, 2005. After her death, I moved into the The Village at Skyline Assisted Living Apartments, where I currently reside.

I am now totally blind. The move was a difficult transition. It was difficult to scale down. I had to give away things at three different times.



"I am not sure what is in store for me next. I am not going to try and figure it out now. I believe a person knows right from wrong, and the best you can do is to follow your instincts and be a moral person. There is nothing more you can do. I believe in doing unto others as you would have them do to you." ~ Alden Edson



We have a servant girl named Mary Ann who claims to be descended from kings. None knows the truths of this story but all agree that it is a great descent from kings to Mary Ann. ~ Mark Twain

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UNITED AIRCRAFT CORPORATION
EAST HARTFORD - CONNECTICUT

PRATT & WHITNEY
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BUICK

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