

**WESTINGHOUSE**  
**ELECTRIC & MANUFACTURING COMPANY**  
**EAST PITTSBURGH, PA.**



August 6, 1935

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Miss Ida Tarbell,  
120 East Nineteenth Street,  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

The further I investigate our "physical survivals" the more I realize that I perhaps need to know better just how you want to use this information so that I can give it to you in better form.

In other words, I wonder if you want to actually state that certain pieces of apparatus are in a specific location and available for public inspection or whether you wish to know only that they have been preserved; whether you want information on just a few leading items or whether you intend to actually tabulate thirty or forty such items.

Some five or six years ago we assembled a great many of our "firsts" and very old equipment and loaned them to Henry Ford for his museum. I believe there were actually 451 pieces of equipment. On some of these we have duplicate apparatus here at East Pittsburgh. That is, in many cases when a new device was being developed five or six duplicate pieces were made for test and experimentation so that many of these several pieces may correctly be called the "first".

Here are a few suggestions:

(1) Westinghouse developed the first transformer in 1885. All transformers are now built upon practically the same principle. The transformer made possible the use of alternating current permitting long distance transmission of power without which electric lighting would be confined to congested communities and the electrification of trunk line railroads would be impossible.

One of these transformers was sent to the Ford Museum. Another exact duplicate of it is here at East Pittsburgh.

(2) Westinghouse developed the first induction motor in 1888. The initiation and development of the induction motor has had an almost inestimable effect upon power distribution and utilization. Today nearly all the industrial power in the world is furnished by induction motors.

One of these motors was sent to the Ford Museum. A practically exact duplicate of it is here at East Pittsburgh.

EVERY HOUSE NEEDS WESTINGHOUSE

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August 6, 1936

(3) After developing the alternating current motor there was no instrument to measure the quantity of current supplied so the Westinghouse Company invented and developed the alternating current meter in 1888. Today nearly all meters in the world are induction meters and are closely similar to the original.

One of these very earliest meters was sent to the Ford Museum. A duplicate is here at East Pittsburgh.

(4) The rotary converter was originated by Westinghouse in 1892. This was largely responsible for the rapid advance of alternating current.

One of the earliest rotary converters we have been able to find is still in operation in our shops here at East Pittsburgh.

(5) The Westinghouse No.3 railway motor was the first successful single reduction motor and was the progenitor of the present universal type of direct current railway motor.

I believe we were able to locate only two No. three motors. One was sent to the Ford Museum and the other is at Ohio State University.

(6) The greatest single lighting job ever undertaken up to that time was the Chicago World's Fair in 1893. George Westinghouse obtained that contract using the famous Westinghouse Stopper Lamp.

A few of these original stopper lamps have been found. At least one is in the Ford Museum; I believe we have one here; I am sure the Westinghouse Lamp Company has at least one.

(7) The carbon-break circuit breaker was first developed by Westinghouse. This was in 1891. This type of breaker has continued to the present day.

One of these first breakers was sent to the Ford Museum; we have one of them here at East Pittsburgh.

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(8) You inquired specifically about the Niagara Falls waterwheel generators installed there by Westinghouse in 1883. These original generators are still there and are still used for standby service.

(9) In 1898 Westinghouse initiated the design of the Parson steam turbine in America. Up until a very few years ago these first turbine generators were still in operation at the Westinghouse Air Brake Company. I am told now that they have been scrapped.

(10) Westinghouse invented the air brake in 1869 and the friction draft gear in 1888. The Westinghouse Air Brake Company maintain a museum in which they very carefully preserved all of the "firsts" in air brake, draft gear, signaling and other equipment they manufacture. This museum is not open to the public but may be visited by those who visit the Wilmerding Works.

(11) Radio broadcasting was first developed by Westinghouse in 1920 and KDKA established in that year was the first broadcasting station.

A replica of the equipment used for the first broadcast has been made and is preserved by station KDKA.

The foregoing are examples. If it is your intention to tabulate a lot of specific items I can furnish you with a list of thirty or forty Westinghouse "firsts" with information as to whether they are still in existence and where they are located. If you intend merely to generalize in a few paragraphs perhaps the information I have given you will be sufficient.

In any case, please do not hesitate to let me know anything additional that I may supply. I can go into considerable detail if you wish and I can furnish photographs of all these "firsts".

Yours very truly,

  
Manager, Press Bureau

Lesley C. Paul:6