

# The BADIN BULLETIN

VOL. III

OCTOBER, 1920

No. 1

## OF GENERAL INTEREST

### A SHORT HISTORY OF THE MACHINE SHOP

(For Beginners; in Words of One and Several Syllables)

*This history was written by the author of "The Badin Carbon Plant," which was the feature article in our September issue. To those of you who read that entertaining sketch, the above information is sufficient. Both articles deal with development of the Tallassee Power Company, and the author possesses that happy faculty of making history an interesting story. He mingles fact, fiction, and humor, the result being a most delightful piece of reading. Many of our readers have suspected that "Joe" Taylor wrote the history of the Carbon Plant—well, he did. And we hope to have the privilege of presenting more of his writing from time to time.*

—EDITOR'S NOTE

No one knows who founded the Machine Shop in the beginning; but it was found by Uncle Jesse Smith and Elmer Hagadone, in September, 1913, B. P. (Before Prohibition), in a half-founded condition. They immediately set about putting it on a producing basis, and they must be therefore regarded as the Mayflower Kids in the Machine Shop annals.

What they had to start with wasn't much, Victor Hugo, in "Les Misérables," tells of some small cultivated plots on the banks of the Seine being not quite large enough to be called gardens and not small enough to be called boquets. It was something like this with the Machine Shop in the early days. You couldn't say that they had a kit of tools, but still they had a little more than a Boy Scout pocket knife. Their headquarters were in a little shed located near the intersection of the Albemarle road and the railroad spur leading to the Narrows.

The shed has departed long since, and the little knoll it rested on disappeared down the gullet of a steam shovel these many years ago. It was a simple old-fashioned little shop, and the output was mainly anchor bolts; but there wasn't any calculagraph in those days, nor any flossy time-clock to be dingling, and the clocking in and out of every time they shifted the cut of "Brown's Mule" from the port to starboard side of their mouths. There wasn't any Carbon Plant Factory ledger, and "overhead" meant the sky and not some foolish figures relating to how

much it costs you to spend a nickel. Good old bygone days! Well, we can't live in the past—nobody does and makes a living at it, except archeologists maybe, and they have to work in Egypt or some other unventilated place a long ways from the machine shop.

Genie Russell was in the store room in the old days and while not strictly a member of the machine shop they were all little pals together, and it is hard to think of one without the rest of the boys being recalled also. They tell the yarn about Genie and Fitz Harris having a telephone conversation on the subject of a stove. Fitz Harris, who was something of a kidder, called up from Whitney and asked Genie to send him up a small wood stove of the type they had in stock.

Genie replied, "Mr. Fitz Harris, we got ary one."

Fitz Harris said, "Well that's all right, Genie; send it up."

Genie insisted, "But, Mr. Fitz Harris, we got ary one."

Fitz said, "Well that ary one will do all right; send it up, Genie."

Genie implored, "Mr. Fitz Harris, we aint not got ary one, nohow."

Fitz remarked, "Oh, you haven't any, eh, Genie?"

Genie said, "No!"

Fitz hung up, saying "Oh, all right Genie; never mind about sending one up then."

The material man at that time was G-G-Guy G-G-Gerrish who ran amuck

(Continued on Page 4)

### When a Man Works

#### Brief Sketch of President Davis' Career

The photograph appearing on the cover page of this issue of the Bulletin is that of our president, Mr. Arthur Vining Davis. The achievements of Mr. Davis should be a living example to the employees of this company as to what can be accomplished by ability, unflinching courage, and confidence in one's self and his fellow men.

For a long while Mr. Davis' energies have been concentrated in the important development of the aluminum industry, and it is to his foresight and unerring judgment that the present industry has achieved the prosperity it now enjoys.

From the year of his graduation from college he has been identified with the corporation now known as the Aluminum Company of America, of which he is president.

The rapid strides which the aluminum industry has made as a result of the creative work done by the Aluminum Company of America has placed the United States in an enviable position from the standpoint of aluminum production.

To Mr. Davis belongs the credit of having placed this business on its present footing. The secret of his success is explained by those who have known him for many years, in that he is as active today, both mentally and physically, as he has been at any time since he became connected with the corporation. The principle which Mr. Davis works on is that a day can never be recalled, and that the best you have in you must be put forward each and every day.

Arthur Vining Davis was born May 30, 1867, at Sharon, Mass., the son of Rev. Perley and Mary (Vining) Davis. Through both lines of his ancestry he is of English descent. He received his preparatory education in the public schools of Hyde Park, Mass., and the

(Continued on Page 9)