



<http://sections.asce.org/syracuse/>

December 2002

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## HISTORY & HERITAGE COMMITTEE

By Jim Tyler

### CANVASS WHITE'S WATER LIME QUARRY

The Committee visited the Madison Road Materials quarry on Quarry Road in the Town of Sullivan and believes it is the quarry that supplied the waterlime used to waterproof the locks of the Erie Canal. The Committee needs a volunteer to visit the Madison County Clerk's Office to review deeds to prove us correct. T. Clark(e) is mentioned as the landowner of the quarry at the time of White's discovery about 1820. Santaro was the owner in July, but it may now be owned by Callahan Industries. Please contact Jim at 468-3798 or [jhtyler@juno.com](mailto:jhtyler@juno.com) to volunteer.

### ROCK WEST BUILDING

This old factory at the corner of Marcellus and West Fayette Streets in Syracuse is an early example of reinforced concrete construction. The original building was completed in 1910 for Brown-Lipe-Chapin Division of General Motors and was operated by Porter-Cable Division of Rockwell International. Nationally known architect Albert Kahn of Detroit, MI designed the building.

In ARCHITECTURE WORTH SAVING IN ONONDAGA COUNTY published in 1964 by New York State Council on the Arts and the Syracuse University School of Architecture, the Ransome system of deformed bar reinforcing is mentioned. The Ransome system is one developed late in the 19<sup>th</sup> century where square steel bars were twisted to increase the bars' bond strength when used in beams and columns.

What is not mentioned is that the Kahn System of Reinforcing developed by the architect was used in the building. This is evident by observing where beams have been severed from columns and remnants of the reinforcing left exposed.

CONCRETE INTERNATIONAL, September 1987: **Kahn trussed bar**; Albert Kahn was a highly innovative architect who successfully gathered some excellent engineers onto his staff. One innovation that was spawned in his firm was a reinforcing bar known as the Kahn bar. It was rolled in an inverted diamond shape with a continuous rib or lug running down each side. This rib was left intact at the center of the span where the steel area was needed for moment. Near the supports, where the moment requirements were lower, the rib was sliced at intervals and bent up to be used as shear reinforcement. (This product was sold by the Trussed Concrete Steel Company.)

## **MORE KAHN SYSTEM OF REINFORCING**

In the middle 1890's the Solvay Process Company built its' second Soda Ash Plant on Zug Island in the Detroit River. The Solvay engineers either used Kahn's firm to design the manufacturing buildings or learned of his system as a result of spending time in the Detroit area. It is soon after that Kahn bars appear in the buildings at the Solvay, NY Plant. An engineer's design book from 1906 contains structural calculations using Kahn bars. Prior to the plant closure in 1986 Kahn bars were known to be in roofs and during demolition they were found in beams and columns also. The system seemed to hang around for quite a while as Kahn bar roofs were constructed as late as the early 1930's according to building drawings. Most of the old Solvay buildings have been demolished, but at least one remains that shows evidence of the Kahn system in use. Portions of the TriGen building, formerly the Solvay Powerhouse, have Kahn roofs dating from about 1915.

## **MORE INFORMATION**

Read Pioneering Concrete Design in CONCRETE INTERNATIONAL, September 1987. I have a copy of the article plus more if you are interested.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

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## **ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY**

Weather, a Section event and personal commitments have led to cancellation of further patrols this year. Save Onondaga County Earth Day next April as that will be our first patrol of 2003. Most likely that will be Saturday April 26. Exact details will be in the April Newsletter.

## 2002-2003 ASCE Syracuse Section

### Program Schedule

<b>ASCE Event</b>	<b>Tentative Date/Time</b>	<b>Description</b>
Joint Dinner Meeting with the CNYAG	December 2002	ASCE/CNYAG teaming for dinner and technical presentation
Joint Dinner Meeting with the SU Chapter	January 2003	ASCE/SU teaming for dinner and technical presentation
Building Big	February 2003	ASCE will judge local student's bridge and team oriented engineering contests at OCC
Technology Alliance Banquet	March 2003	ASCE will participate in the dinner/awards banquet
Continued Education Course	April 2003	ASCE will sponsor a continued education course
Joint Dinner Meeting with the ASCE Ithaca Section	May 2003	Syracuse/Ithaca will team up for a dinner/technical presentation
Syracuse Chiefs Baseball Game	June 2003	Picnic and ballgame
Adopt-A-Highway	April 2003 – September 2003	4 patrols will be schedule to keep ASCE's portion of I81 clean
Board Meetings	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month; 6:00PM at the Parsons Liverpool Office	The ASCE Syracuse Section Board will meet. ASCE members are welcome

# ASCE SYRACUSE SECTION BOARD MEMBERS

## 2002-2003 OFFICERS

### **President - Matt Millias, P.E.**

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### **NSPE Liason - John Knox, P.E.**

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### **Adopt-A-Highway/Heritage History Chair Jim Tyler**

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### **150th Committee Chair - Craig Butler, P.E.**

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### **Continued Education Chair - Mitch Carmody, P.E.**

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