

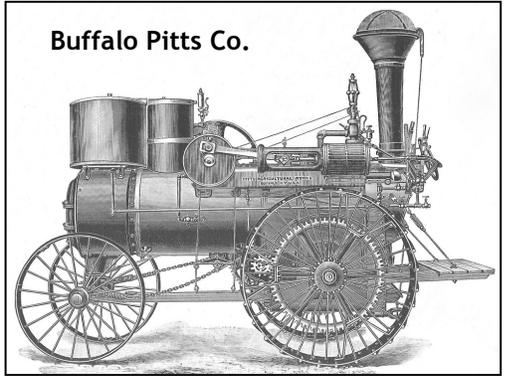
LOCAL STEAM ENGINE MANUFACTURING

By Brian Szafranski, Elma, NY

This year's Rally is dedicated to "Steam" so here are a few manufacturers of steam engines from our area.

Buffalo Pitts Company

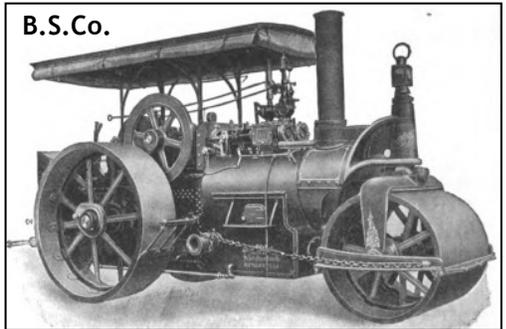
Buffalo Pitts was founded by the co-inventor of the continuous-apron threshing machine, John A. Pitts. Dick Morris of Anchorage Alaska wrote an article in the Flywheel News on the Pitts Thresher a few years ago. The famous Pitts Thresher got Buffalo Pitts started and prosperous, but steam engines made it famous. At one time, Buffalo Pitts was considered one of the top manufacturers of steam engines and threshers. In the photo at the upper right is a 1903 Buffalo Pitts single-cylinder straw-burning return-flue steam traction engine. A front-mounted water tank will often be seen on a Pitts engine.



Buffalo Pitts Co.

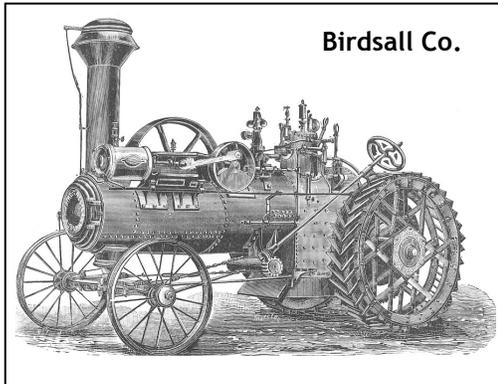
Buffalo Steamroller Company

Early on this subsidiary of Buffalo Pitts called their steam rollers "Pitts Rollers" to take advantage of the Pitts reputation for quality. They later merged with Kelly-Springfield to form the famous steamroller maker Buffalo-Springfield of Springfield Ohio. In the photo at right is a 1908 Pitts Roller from an ad in "Good Roads" magazine.



B.S.Co.

Birdsall Co.

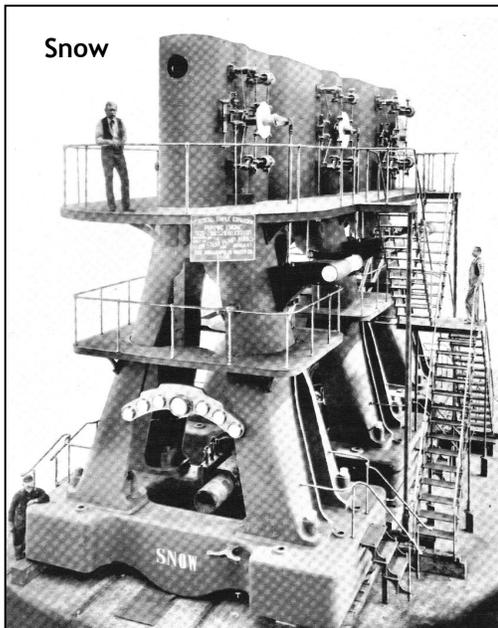


The Birdsall Company of Auburn NY

The Birdsall Company was founded in Penn Yan, moved to Auburn (where it produced many of its steam engines) and later moved to Newark, NY. They made steam traction engines, as well as portable & stationary steam engines, threshers, and saw mills. In the photo at left is a Birdsall steam traction engine from an original 1893 catalog. Birdsall's steam tractors have a hex pattern on the flat-metal spokes on the back wheels.

Snow Steam Pump Works of Buffalo Holly Manufacturing of Lockport

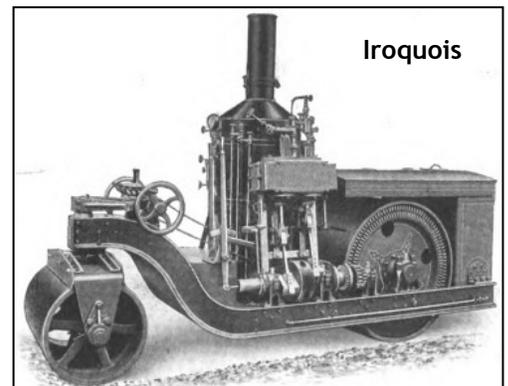
Snow and Holly both made small and medium sized steam powered equipment, but they also made HUGE steam engines and pumps. In the photo at the bottom left is the 3 story tall "Steam End" of a "High Duty Vertical Triple Expansion Pumping Engine" installed by Snow in 1896 at the Indianapolis Water Co. It pumped 20 million gallons of water per day; and it tested out at 775 HP at 21½ RPM with a 60 inch stroke at 155 pounds per square inch of steam pressure. Snow merged with Holly to form Holly-Snow Works on Buffalo's East Side. In 1915 the company became part of International Steam Pump, and in 1918 it became Worthington Pump.



Snow

Iroquois Iron Works of Buffalo

Iroquois made road-building machinery and tools such as: macadam & tandem rollers, surface heaters, fire wagons, asphalt kettles & mixers, melting & pouring pots, and many types of metal hand tools. In the photo at right is a 1909 Iroquois Tandem Steam Roller available in 2½, 5 and 8 ton models.



Iroquois