

# Scenes from the Past...

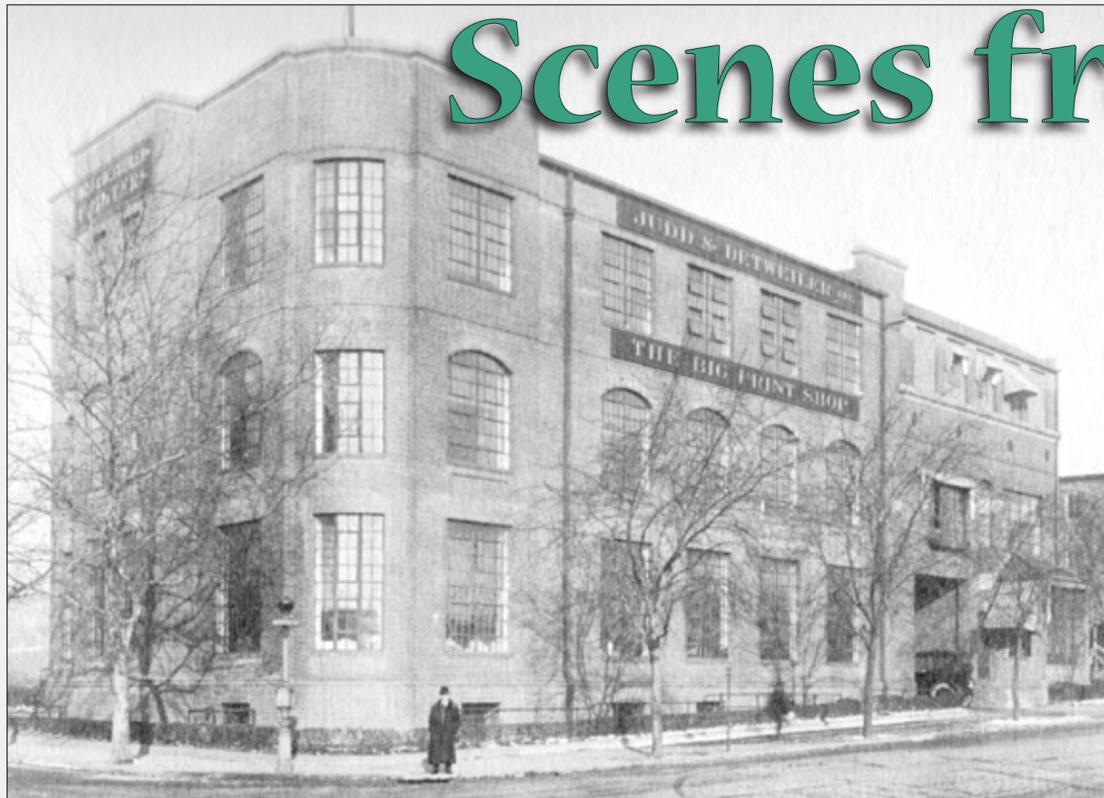


photo — The First 100 years of Judd & Detweiler, 1868-1968.

The building at the corner of Florida Avenue and Eckington Street that is today the home of XM Satellite Radio was built beginning in 1912 for Judd & Detweiler. This picture, taken about 1920, shows the original three-story building to the right, with a car in the driveway, built in 1912 facing Eckington Street; the large 1920 addition with rounded corner on Florida Avenue is seen at left.



photo — The First 100 years of Judd & Detweiler, 1868-1968.

Judd and Detweiler's first printing building, located at 420-422 11th Street, N.W., which they occupied from 1876 to 1912.

The large building that houses XM Satellite Radio at the intersection of Florida Avenue and Eckington Place, NE, is passed by thousands of Washingtonians everyday on their way in and out of the city along New York Avenue, likely without knowing that it was once one of the largest printing plants in the United States. In fact, if you have a vintage National Geographic magazine lying about, it is likely it was printed at this plant.

The printing firm responsible for its construction was named Judd & Detweiler, which was established in 1868 by John Gough Judd and Frederick May Detweiler. Originally from Pennsylvania, they were first located on the third floor of 517 7th Street, NW, where their first printing job that year involved 5,000 blank forms for the U.S. Supreme Court.

The firm prospered, and by 1883, they moved into a handsome building at 420 11th Street, NW, at which time they were joined by their sons George H. Judd (then only 16) and Fred F. and George H. Detweiler. They then printed such books as a 1,879-page tome on the origins of the Smithsonian Institution that was hand-set in type, letter-



photo — The First 100 years of Judd & Detweiler, 1868-1968.

The founders of the Judd & Detweiler printing business in 1868 were John G. Judd (1824-1895), left, and Frederick M. Detweiler (1830-1905), right.

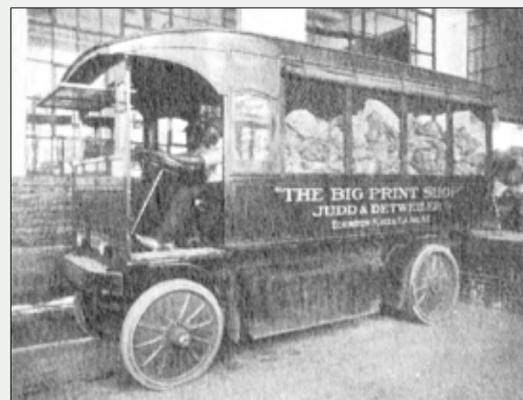


photo — The First 100 years of Judd & Detweiler, 1868-1968.

Judd and Detweiler delivered printed books and documents in this electric delivery truck, seen here about 1924.

by-letter, as the Linotype machine was not invented until 1886.

Founder Frederick M. Detweiler married his second wife Nellie in 1894, when he was 64 and she was just 33. In fact, she was five years younger than her stepson, Frederick F., who had been born in May of 1857 in Washington. They all lived at 504 I Street, NW. In 1893, Fred Jr. ventured into the real estate business when he obtained a building permit to build 18 houses between 2701 and 2735 P Street in Georgetown, designed by George S. Cooper. They were not completed, however, until about 1903, due to the economic depression of 1893.

The firm purchased the land at Eckington and Florida Avenue from the Youngsborough estate in 1912, and moved into a new, small printing plant on the site in April of that year. It was designed by Arthur B. Heaton. Two, large additions were completed by 1920, also designed Heaton, creating the building seen today. It was known by a sign on its façade that read "The Big Print Shop."

Judd & Detweiler began printing the National Geographic magazine in 1896, when it had a circulation of just 5,000. By 1926, the firm was producing over 80,000 copies of various magazines per day; National Geographic alone then had a monthly subscription of nearly

one million issues that required almost 10 days of press time.

The firm also printed monthly magazines for the Red Cross and the Daughters of the American Revolution, in addition to the printing needs of the Supreme Court and other government agencies. Many hotel menus and books of the era were also proudly printed at the Eckington plant.

George H. Judd and his son, George E., were avid hunters and outdoorsmen, who, along with Sam Sours, proposed and lobbied for the creation of the Shenandoah National Park, beginning in 1927. They had been spending summers there at their country house in Skyland since 1898. Locally, for decades, Palm Sunday was coined "Judd & Detweiler Day" at Calvary Baptist Church at 8th and H Streets, NW, as officers and employees of the company took part in special services.

George E. Judd, grandson of the founder, took over as president of the company in 1928. The firm lost the National Geographic contract in 1957 when they could not produce the 2,250,000 monthly issues in color. They later obtained color web-offset presses and were pleased to print The White House book in 1962 as their first color document, a record of Jacqueline Kennedy's restoration of the President's residence.

The building at 1500 Eckington Place was added onto several times, the last being in 1972, to accommodate several large presses and storage areas. By 1986, the company had built large plants in both Maryland and Virginia, and the Eckington facility closed after 117 years in business in the city. At the time, 200 employees worked in the 300,000 square-foot facility. It was acquired by Perry Graphic in 1997, and is today a subsidiary known as Perry Judd's Incorporated.

In July 2000, after a 14-month renovation, the former printing plant became the headquarters for XM Satellite Radio, the largest state-of-the-art broadcast complex of its kind in the U.S., with 82 all-digital studios. An emerging force in broadcasting, it was incorporated in 1992 and has been publicly traded on the NASDAQ exchange since October 5, 1999.

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Judd & Detweiler Advertisement from the 1896 City Directory.