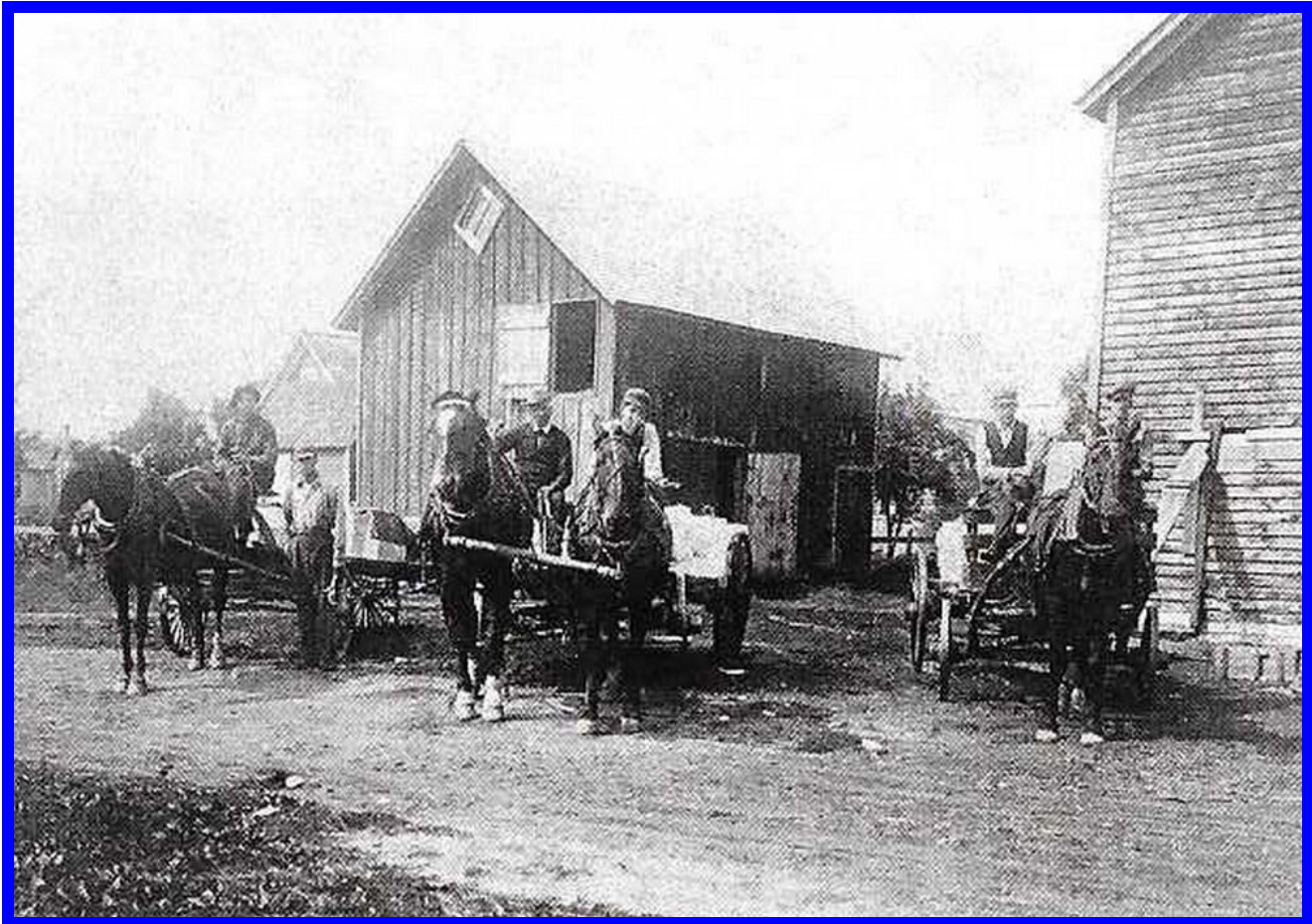


**American Refrigeration  
Cold Storage & Ice-Making 1875-1940s**

# *The Black Ice Era*



**Illustrations from COOLING THE SOUTH 1875-1975  
Ellie Morris, Wackophoto, Richmond, VA, 2008  
And from MORRIS ICE COMPANY-ABANDONED PLACES**



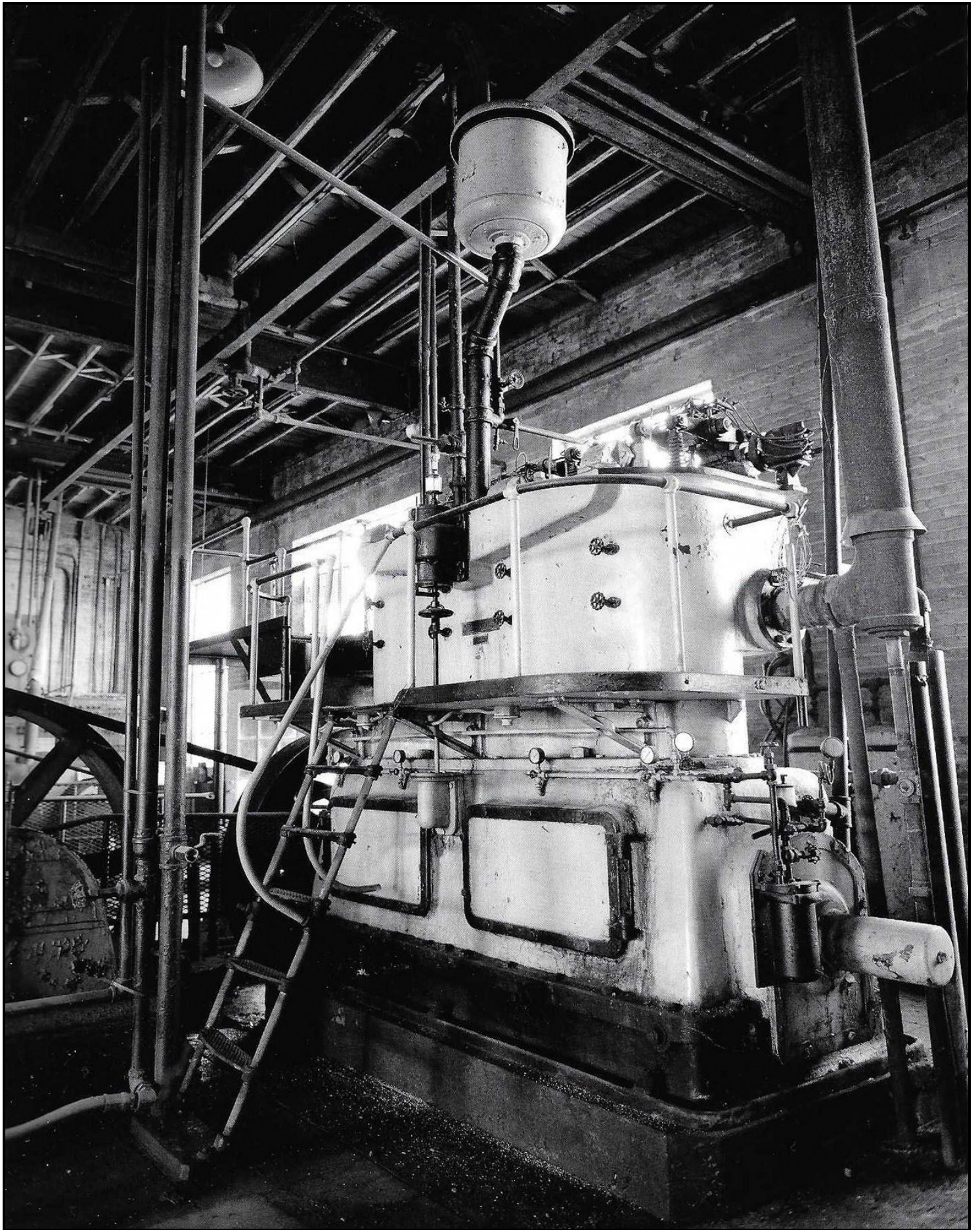


Ice Block manufacture

Once upon a time, the manufacture of ice was carried out by the Morris Ice Company in Mississippi. The story of the Company, its redundant factory and its ice-machinery has been told by Ellie Morris (a member of the family that once ran the business) in her words and with her photographs in the pages which follow. Mention is also made of the Pascagoula Ice & Freezer Company.

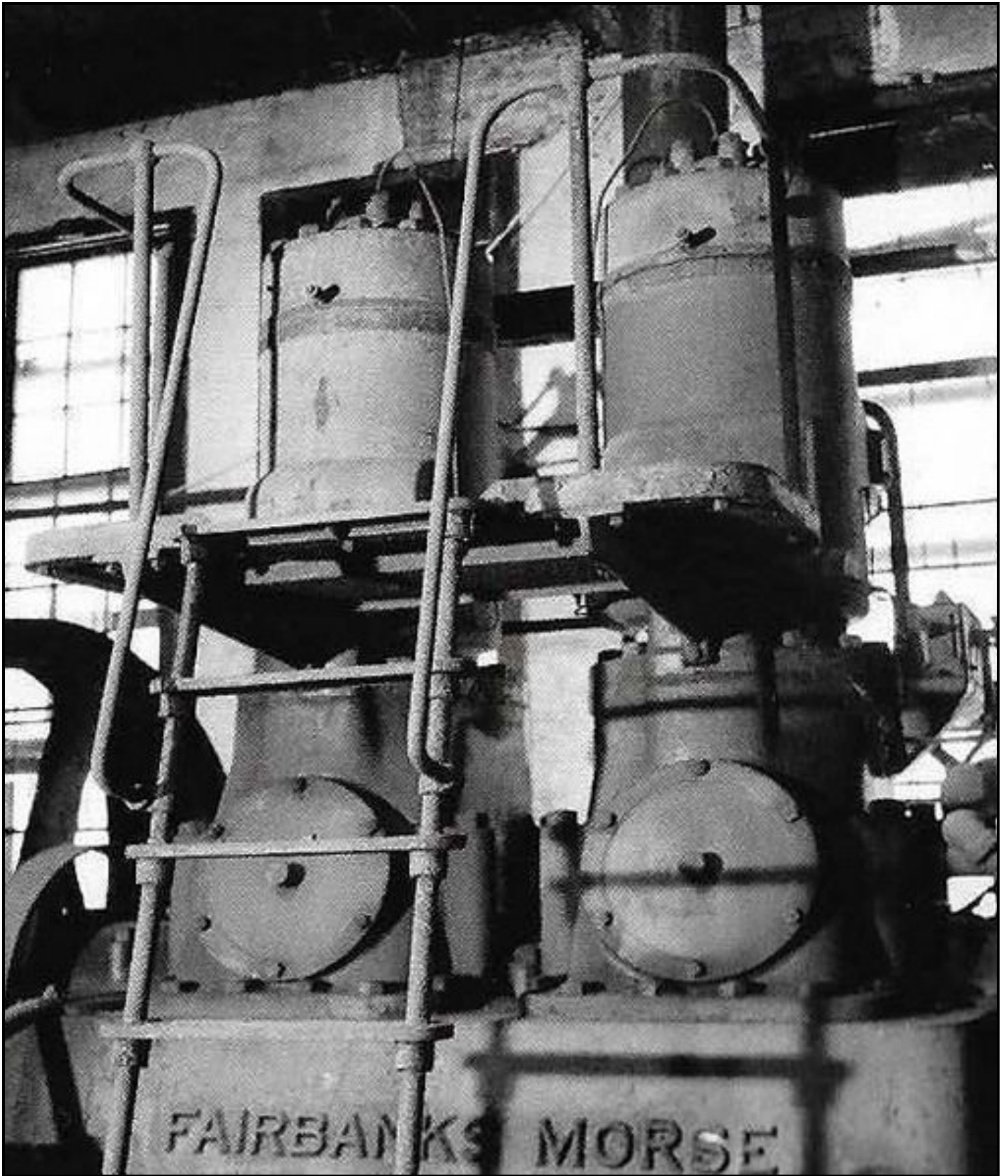
The Morris Company manufactured ice using ammonia compressors from a variety of well known manufacturers including Frick, Vilter and York. Early plants from the 1800s were powered by steam engines. Later steam engines powered electricity generators (often serving the local community) and so Morris and Pascagoula then used electric motor drive. However, improvements in automatic control, reliability and financial considerations led, in the 1930s, to the introduction of gas-engine and diesel-engine drive for the refrigeration compressors.



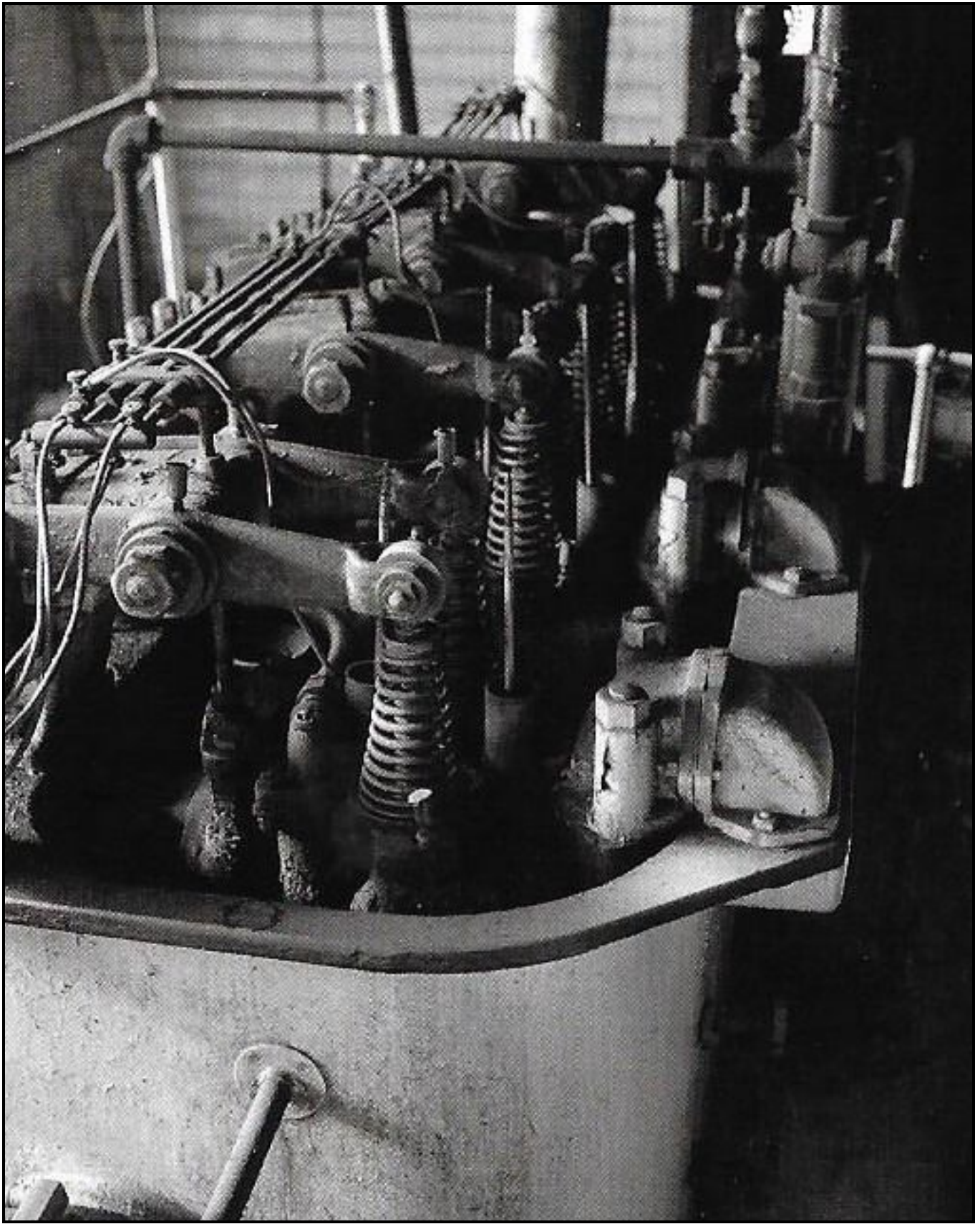


Bruce McBeth 200 hp natural gas engine, Morris Ice Company



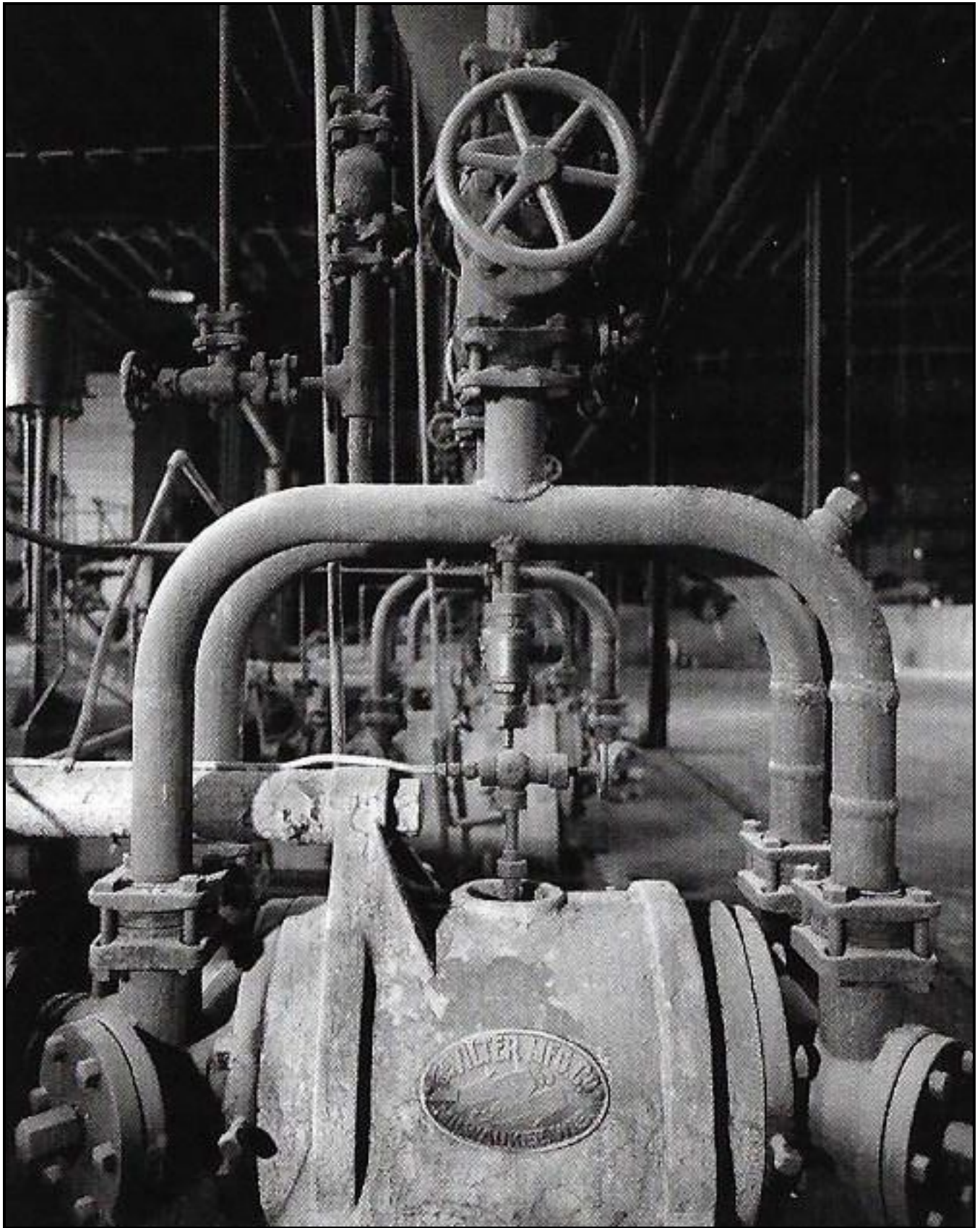


1915 Fairbanks Morse 120 hp diesel engine  
Pascagoula Ice & Freezer Company



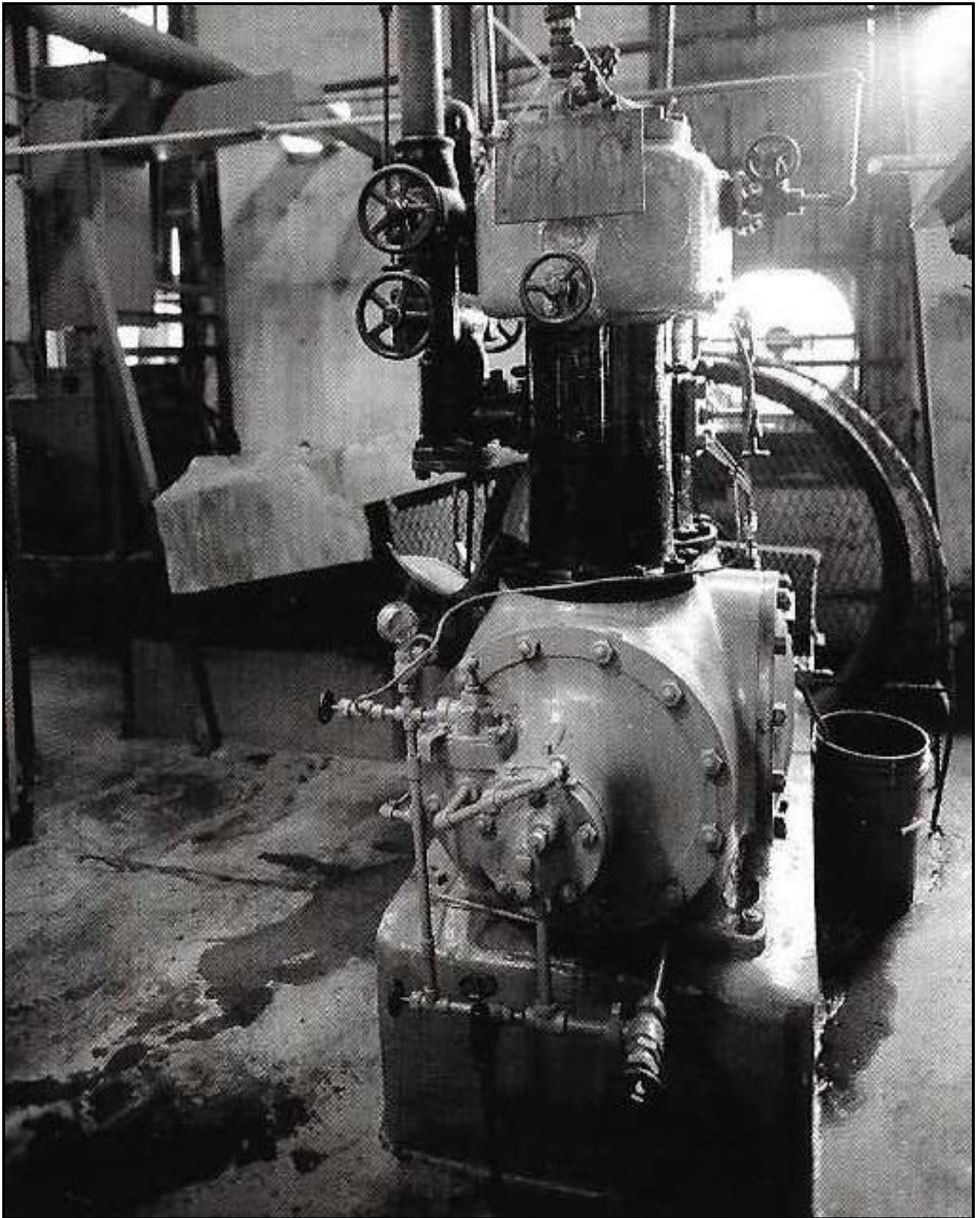
1934 Bruce McBeth natural gas engine (rocker arms and firing mechanism)



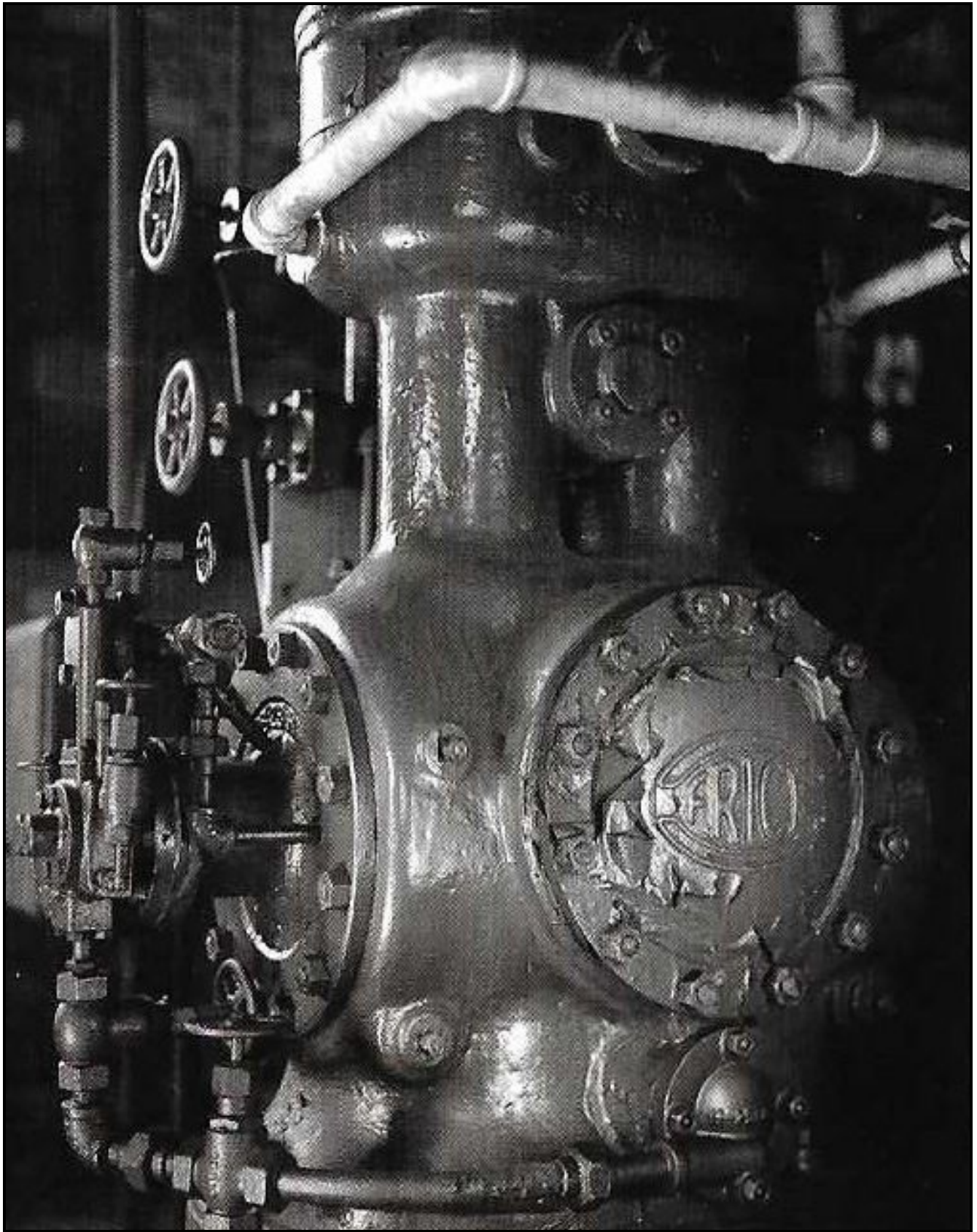


1924 Vilter horizontal compressor (suction and discharge valves)



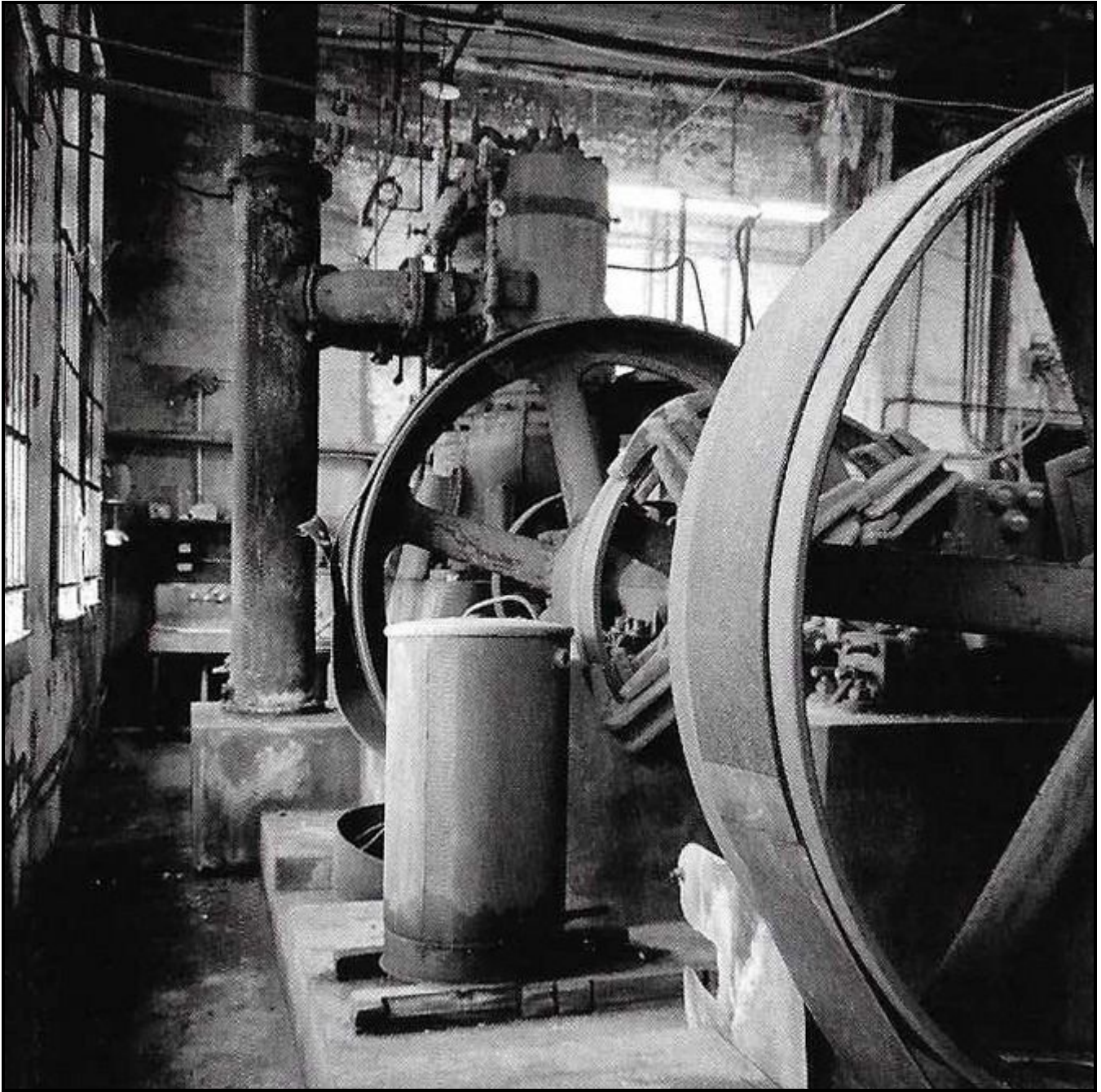


1945 Frick 7 x 7 ammonia compressor



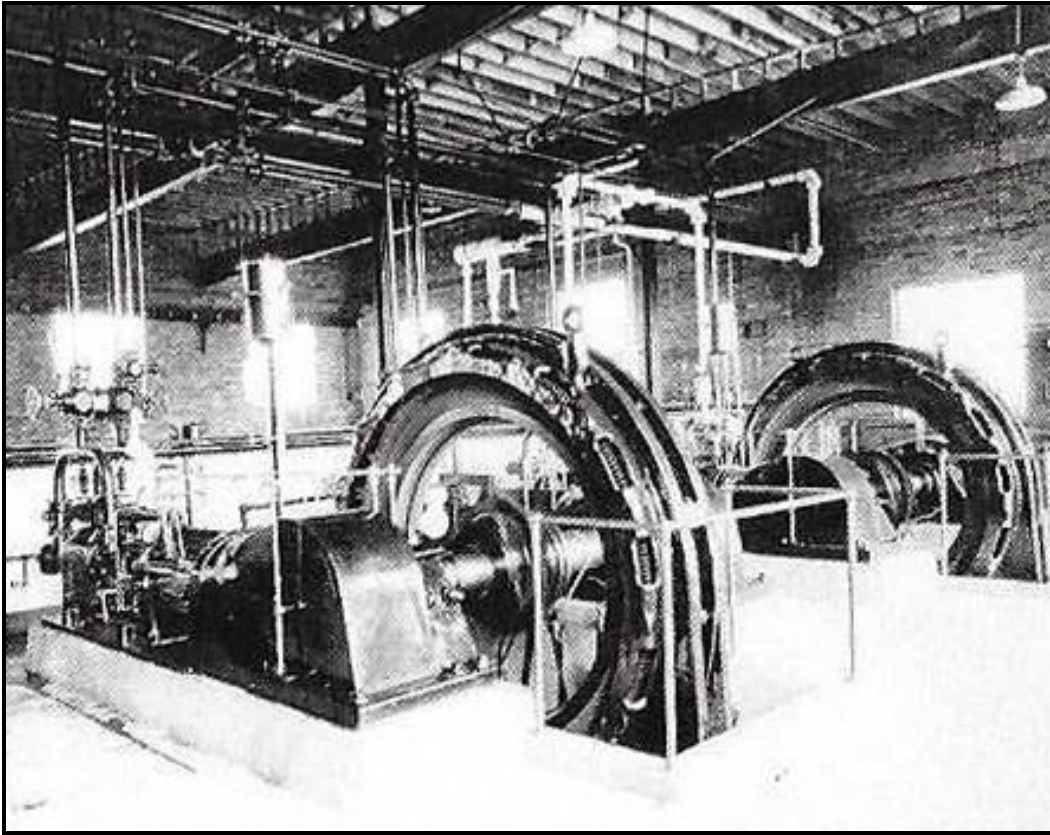
1932 York 9 x 9 ammonia compressor



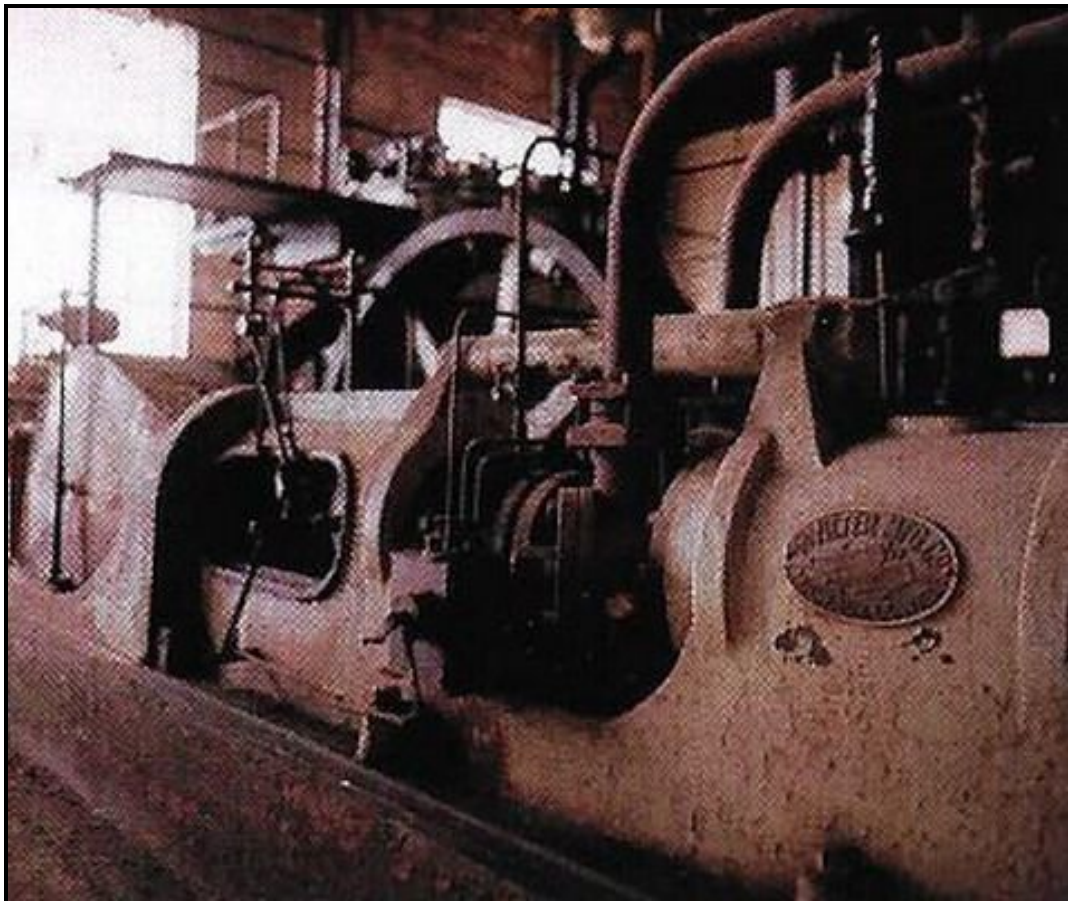


Ten feet tall fly wheels with leather belts  
Pascagoula Ice & Freezer Company





1924 Synchronous electric motors, Morris Ice Company

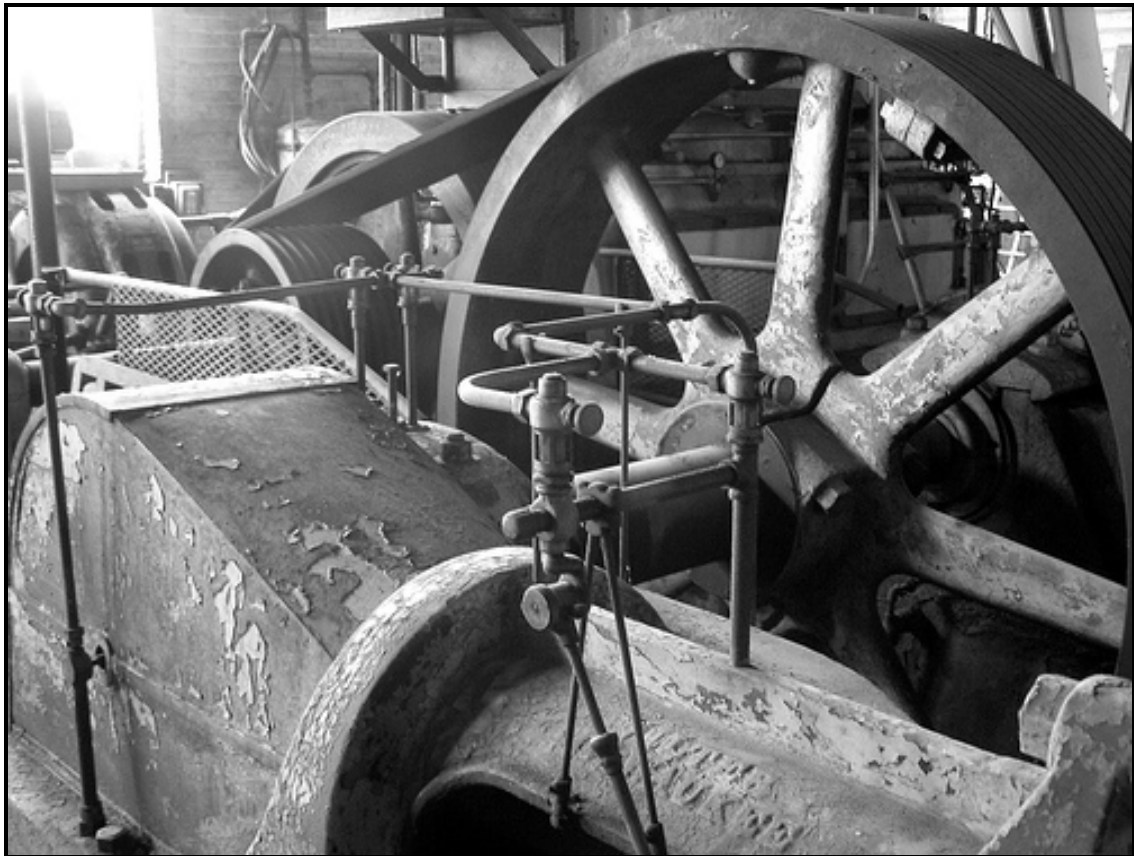


1924 Vilter horizontal ammonia compressor, Morris Ice Company





Morris Ice Company



Morris Ice Company





Vilter Refrigeration gauge board at Morris Ice Company





Morris Ice Company as it was, complete with rail connection



Morris Ice Company as it is today





Other Mississippi Ice Factories





Fairbanks Morse armature of a 1940 Frick 10 x 10 ammonia compressor  
Pascagoula Ice & Freezer Company