

The Schaedler family is no stranger to the construction industry.

Andrew, born in 1878 in Steelton, Pa., a year before Edison's light bulb invention, faced the common fate of many youths of his time-dropping out of school early. Despite this setback, his thirst for knowledge and his unwavering determination to succeed remained. This led him to enroll at the National Correspondence Institute in Washington, a testament to his perseverance. In 1901, the renowned International Correspondence School was established in Scranton, Pa., and Andy was among its first registrants. He received his certificate in electrical engineering in 1903, a milestone in his journey.

In 1906, the state of Pennsylvania began to rebuild the capitol after the fire of 1897. Andrew was called upon to serve as the foreman of the electrical installations for the building (see photo right). Meanwhile, in household after household, gas lamps were being replaced by new technology – electric lighting. Full of optimism, Andy, joined by their brother William Schaedler, set out for Philadelphia, where they operated a very busy business called Schaedler Bros. Manufacturing Company. Andy and Bill are responsible for wiring a great many homes in Philadelphia. However, with the outbreak of World War I, Andy left to work in the Philadelphia Naval Yard. In the meantime, Bill continued building the business, selling fixtures in addition to electrical services.

In 1917, tragedy befell the Schaedler family when their father, Albert, was killed in an accident while working for Bethlehem Steel Company. In the early 20's Andy and Bill left Philadelphia behind and returned home to Steelton to be closer to their mother.

In 1924, Harry Schaedler joined his brothers after serving as a master bricklayer for many years (see photo right. Harry second from the right on the top of the building). The three men began Schaedler Brothers Manufacturing Company working from Fulton Street in Harrisburg.

In 1926, the company purchased 226 Briggs Street for \$4000, where they manufactured and assembled fixtures. The store was half of a duplex home. Despite the challenges of running a business in a residential community, the company fared well, finding quick acceptance among customers.

Although the business was doing well, Andy's creativity was bursting! He sought patents for two of his ideas. One was a two-light plug designed to serve as an extension outlet for overhead shades. The other was a spring assembly for converting vases and bottles into lamps. Both fell victim to changing times and customs and were never officially patented.

