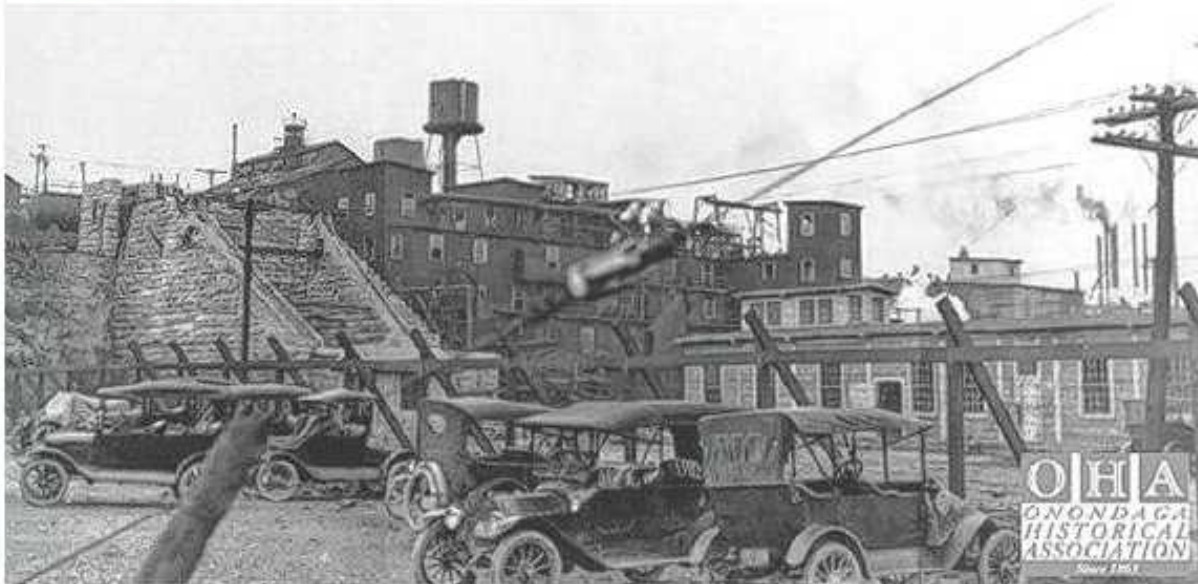


THE WEEK IN HISTORY



Split Rock on July 2, 1918, before the explosion.

Disaster at Split Rock

The Onondaga Historical Association looks back at the week in local history:

96 years ago: On the night of July 2, 1918, the Semet-Solvay Process Co. was operating a munitions factory on the site of its former limestone quarry at Split Rock, manufacturing highly explosive TNT for World War I. It is believed that an overheated gear in a grinding machine started a fire in the No. 1 TNT building. Workers fought the blaze until the

hoses lost water pressure and then there was no stopping it. The resulting explosion rocked the landscape and was felt for miles around. It killed an estimated 50 men while leaving another 50 injured. A stone crusher, built in 1903 during the quarry days, is the only significant surviving structure on the site.

—*Daniel Connors of the OHA*