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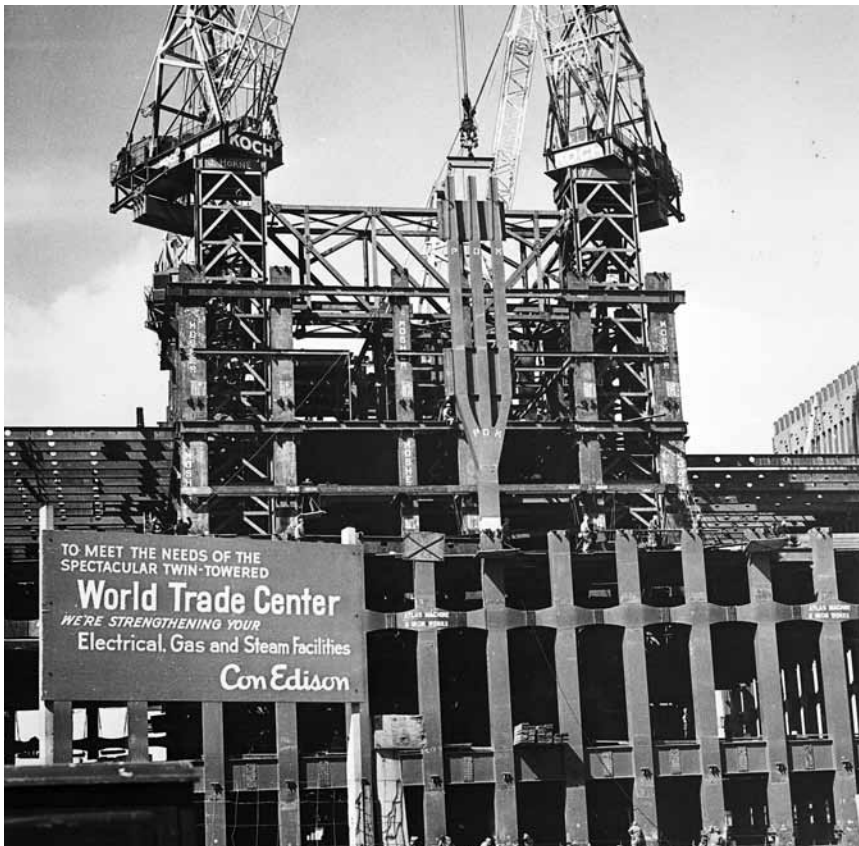
WORLD TRADE CENTER STEEL MAKES A HOMECOMING

Forty-one years ago, a trainload carrying the structural shapes (known as trees) destined for the World Trade Center in New York City pulled out of Lukens Steel in Coatesville, Pa. (tour site—2004 SIA Fall Tour, Wilmington, Del.). The trees were to frame the first nine floors and soaring lobbies of the North and South Towers of the world's tallest buildings at that time. As the horrors of 9/11 unfolded, it was the lasting images of the trees still standing which etched an indelible image

in the minds of those who viewed them. The trees became icons of the tragedy. Little could anyone fathom in 1969 that those same trees would return to Coatesville to become the centerpiece of the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum, no longer simply unusual steel shapes but respected relics of one of our nation's worst disasters.

The 28-truck convoy carrying the trees arrived in Coatesville, within the confines of the Lukens National Historic District, on April 15. The trees' arrival was greeted by crowds lining the streets and a distinguished procession into the city. A welcoming ceremony was hosted by the Graystone Society, which was created in 1984 to help preserve the city's historic architecture and assist with municipal improvement and economic development through preservation. The president of the society, Scott G. Huston (a direct descendent of Rebecca Lukens, a founder of the Lukens Steel Company 200 years ago), chaired the event. "It's our goal," said Huston, "to honor those who lost their lives on 9/11, as well as the steelworkers who created the steel for these monumental

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Construction of the World Trade Center, showing erection of the trees, c. 1969.

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