Titan Park — LinkedIn Article Series

Reclaimed Space · Bellefonte, PA

ARTICLE 1 OF 6

A Dream, a Rolling Mill, and the Birth of Something Titan

How a failed automobile venture planted the seeds of one of Pennsylvania's most storied industrial campuses

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In 1913, a man named William Philip Sieg arrived in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania with a big idea. He came from the Harrisburg area with plans to build an automobile manufacturing plant. The car he had in mind would be called the "Bellefonte Six." It never rolled off a single assembly line.

But what happened next changed Centre County forever.

Financial hardship killed the automobile venture before a single facility could be built. Rather than leave, Sieg stayed — spending a couple of years managing the Bellefonte Engineering Company alongside partner J.P. Harbold. It was there, at that foundry, that the first "Titan Bronze" alloy was ever cast. The name, and the metal, would prove prophetic.

In 1915, Sieg resigned from the Engineering Company and organized the Alpha Metal Company, setting up operations at the McCoy-Linn Iron Company site near Milesburg, along a dam on Spring Creek. The company launched with fourteen employees and a single product: brass rod in large diameters. The corporate name was soon changed to the Titan Metal Company, and in 1925 it was reorganized again as the **Titan Metal Manufacturing Company** — the name that would become synonymous with Centre County industry for the next century.

Why "Titan"? The historical record isn't entirely certain. One account suggests the name came from Titan of Homeric mythology — the personification of the sun. Another points to the warm, sun-like gleam of the metal itself. Either way, the figure of the armored god Titan became the company's trademark, and the name proved fitting: this would be no ordinary enterprise.

The plant moved to its current location in the fall of 1917 — the site on Axemann Road in Spring Township that is today's Titan Park. That land carried a long industrial pedigree before Sieg ever arrived. It had previously been home to the Logan Forge (founded by John Dunlop in 1797), the Valentine and Thomas cold-blast charcoal iron furnace (erected 1827, operating continuously until 1885), the Centre Iron Company, the Valentine Iron Company, and finally the Nittany Iron Company, whose furnace was dismantled in 1912 — bringing the charcoal iron industry in Centre County to a close. Sieg was not starting from scratch; he was continuing a 120-year tradition of industry on this hillside.

By 1917, the brass forging operations that had been acquired in Detroit were relocated to Bellefonte and integrated into the growing plant. Titan Metal Manufacturing Company was open for business on the ground where it would stand for nearly the next century.

Next: How a small rolling mill became Pennsylvania's only brass rod mill — and the largest brass die casting producer in the United States.

ARTICLE 2 OF 6

Pennsylvania's Only Brass Rod Mill

How Titan Metal Manufacturing Company grew from 14 employees to a national industrial powerhouse

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Growth, in the early years of Titan Metal Manufacturing Company, was measured in products added, machines installed, and contracts signed — each one pulling the company further from its modest origins at a dam on Spring Creek and closer to something truly extraordinary.

The 1920s set the pace. By 1924, Titan had its first billing for automatic screw machine products. The company was no longer just rolling brass rod — it was machining precision components. In 1925 it was formally reorganized as the Titan Metal Manufacturing Company, a name that reflected its ambition. Throughout the decade, the payroll grew to roughly 150 employees.

Then came 1931 and 1932 — two back-to-back milestones that redefined the company's identity. In 1931, Titan installed facilities for the production of small rod and welding rod, dramatically expanding its product range. In 1932, it went a step further: Titan became the **first company in the United States to install Polak brass die casting machines**, importing the equipment directly from Czechoslovakia. At a stroke, Titan became not only Pennsylvania's only brass rod mill, but the largest producer of brass die castings in the country.

The Depression, which leveled so many American manufacturers, barely touched Titan's output — though it was necessary at times to curtail working hours. Titan used the period strategically, completing a $300,000 expansion program that positioned the company to enter the national brass field on a fully competitive basis. Not a single layoff.

The physical heart of production during this era was two giant hydraulic extrusion presses that converted billets of heated metal into rods of various sizes and shapes. The larger press, installed during World War II, operated under 2,750 tons of pressure. Rods extruded by these presses supplied a steady flow of material — about 25 percent processed internally in the forging and automatics departments, the remainder sold to other manufacturers. Six plants in and around Bellefonte encompassed approximately 347,000 square feet of floor space.

Titan was also a community institution. In 1951 alone, the company poured $5,480,000 in wages and salaries into the area — paid to 1,265 workers — plus additional millions in locally purchased goods, services, and materials. "Titan men" held positions in borough and school governments, the County Hospital, civic clubs, and organizations throughout Centre County. The Sieg family didn't just run a factory; they built a civic legacy alongside it.

William W. Sieg — son of the founder, a Penn State graduate, and a former metallurgist at Rome Brass and Copper Company — joined the firm in 1929. He became Assistant General Manager in 1931, a Board member in 1934, Vice President and General Manager in 1936, and President in 1948 when his father was elevated to Chairman. Two generations of Siegs, one extraordinary company.

By the eve of World War II, Titan had grown from 22 employees and primitive machinery to a plant and equipment valued at over three-quarters of a million dollars, employing roughly 500 hourly workers. It was Pennsylvania's only brass rod mill — and one of the largest industrial employers in all of Centre County.

Next: When the nation called, Titan answered — the wartime story of Army-Navy E Awards and brass fuse rings produced a ton at a time.

ARTICLE 3 OF 6

Arsenal of Democracy: Titan's World War II Story

How a Bellefonte brass mill became one of the first 22 American companies to earn the Army-Navy "E" Award

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On April 28, 1944, the War Production Board placed a telephone call to Titan Metal Manufacturing Company in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. Artillery ammunition was needed in astronomical quantities. Brass fuse rings for shells were desperately needed. Could Titan virtually double its capacity — immediately?

Titan said yes.

The call came on a Thursday. Less than five months later — on September 21, 1944, just 4 months and 23 days after that initial phone call — a brand-new plant was in production. The project had required Titan to overcome severe transportation difficulties, labor shortages, and a wartime scarcity of materials. It was completed within the War Production Board's cost ceiling of $1,444,977. Within 10 months and 23 days of first production, the plant had turned out 38,822,289 pounds of brass products.

The new building was Plant No. 4 — built during the summer of 1944, operated under the auspices of the Defense Plant Corporation, a federal agency, and later purchased by Titan outright from the War Assets Administration in March 1948. That building still stands today at Titan Park.

Titan's wartime products read like a catalog of Allied victory: brass fuse rings for artillery shells, timing apparatus forgings for airplanes, radar forgings, bomb components, forged valve assemblies for life rafts, electrical connections for the Maritime Commission, and more. The Army, Navy, Maritime Commission, and Air Force were, for several years, Titan's sole customers.

During the war years, Titan employed approximately 500 women on hourly paid jobs throughout the mill. Employment reached a wartime peak of 1,978 workers in May 1945.

The recognition was swift and sustained. **Titan earned the Army-Navy "E" Award for Excellence in 1942** — among the first 22 companies in the entire United States to be so honored. The company subsequently earned four additional stars for continued superior performance. It was a distinction that placed a brass mill in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, in rare national company.

Meanwhile, the campus kept growing. In the fall of 1939, Titan acquired the Eagle Silk Mill property as Plant No. 2 — used as a mill depot and shipping department. In December 1944, the Lingenfelter Motor Corporation building on South Water Street was added to house special machinery for time train rings and other fuze components. Plant No. 5 came in 1946 from the H.S. Moor Company near Milesburg, used for finish production of small diameter rod, wire, and welding rod.

The war had transformed Titan from a regional manufacturer into a proven national supplier — tested under pressure, decorated for excellence, and poised for the remarkable postwar expansion that would follow.

Next: The Cold War era, Cerro Corporation, and the installation of what would become the world's most advanced brass rod mill.

ARTICLE 4 OF 6

The Cerro Years: Growth, Innovation, and the World's Most Advanced Brass Rod Mill

From a postwar powerhouse to a global brand — and the machine that could produce a ton of brass per minute

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The years following World War II brought Titan Metal Manufacturing Company a new owner, a new name, and an ambition that would literally reshape a Pennsylvania hillside.

In December 1946, Consolidated Coppermines Corporation acquired a controlling interest in Titan — about 54 percent of capital stock. The parent company, which owned copper mines in Nevada and refining operations in New Jersey, now had an assured domestic outlet for its refined copper through Titan's Bellefonte brass mill.

The ownership chain continued to evolve. On March 25, 1959, Cerro de Pasco Corporation acquired the assets of Consolidated Coppermines, and Titan became a subsidiary of Cerro de Pasco — which renamed itself Cerro Corporation on January 1, 1961. In March 1962, Cerro consolidated its Titan, Lewin-Mathes, and Viking divisions into a new operating entity: **Cerro Copper and Brass Company**, with headquarters established in Euclid, Ohio.

The Bellefonte works remained the crown jewel.

Plant No. 6 was erected in July 1951 at the north end of the property adjoining Plant 1 — used first for automatic screw machines producing fuze booster bodies during the Korean War, and later housing a 750-ton extrusion press. That press, acquired from the Sutton Engineering Company, was used at one remarkable point to extrude the first Zirconium rods used by Westinghouse Electric Company in its initial Atomic Energy Program.

In 1957, Titan expanded westward with a 40-acre plant near Newark, California, producing extruded brass rod and forgings. Mill depots extended to Indianapolis, Seymour (Connecticut), and Newark. By the early 1960s, the Bellefonte Works was producing brass rod, die castings, forgings, wire, and boat shafting for customers in plumbing, automotive, electrical appliance, radio, air conditioning, and transportation industries — with sales representatives in at least 25 countries.

Then came 1967 and the investment that put Bellefonte on the global map of industrial achievement.

Cerro installed what was promoted — accurately — as the **World's Most Advanced Brass Rod Mill**: a 5,500-ton press complex nicknamed "Cerrobelle." The facility cost approximately $5.4 million, required an 85,000-square-foot plant addition, and to make room for it, a Pennsylvania mountain was removed from the hillside. The press itself weighed 800 tons, with two-thirds of its mass below floor level. It was the largest known press ever built for extrusion of solid brass rod and bar — capable of producing a ton of brass per minute.

The dedication in November 1967 drew Pennsylvania Governor Raymond Shafer, who pushed the button to start production. An employee open house brought some 3,400 Cerro workers and family members through the plant over two days; a public open house drew approximately 3,100 additional visitors. The event was covered by local, state, and national news media.

For a decade, Bellefonte operated the world's most technically advanced brass facility — a fact that would have astonished William Philip Sieg, who arrived in town in 1913 just trying to build a car.

In 1972, Cerro reorganized the Bellefonte operations into **Cerro Metal Products**, with headquarters formally established in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. In 1976, Cerro Corporation merged with The Marmon Group of Chicago, and Cerro Metal Products continued — first as a division of Cerro-Marmon, then of The Marmon Group directly. Additional expansions followed: a forging facility in Weyers Cave, Virginia (1979); a modern 339,000-square-foot brass rod mill

purchased in Paramount, California (1985); operations in Shenandoah, Virginia; and distribution reaching coast to coast.

Decades of expansion. A workforce measured in thousands. A campus that had grown from 14 employees and a single product to a national manufacturing operation headquartered in a small Pennsylvania town.

The end, when it came, arrived quickly.

Next: The closure, the silence, and what 93 years of manufacturing left behind.

ARTICLE 5 OF 6

The Lights Go Out: Closure, Transition, and the Weight of Industrial Legacy

What happened when one of Centre County's largest employers shut its doors — and what remained

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By the early 2000s, the brass manufacturing operation that had defined the Axemann Road campus for nearly nine decades was contracting. Global market pressures, aging infrastructure, and a consolidating industry were reshaping the economics of domestic brass production.

The California facilities went first. Cerro Metal Products discontinued manufacturing at the Paramount, California plant in 2002 and established a distribution-only center in Santa Fe Springs. The Shenandoah, Virginia facility closed in 2003. Piece by piece, the national footprint of what had once been a multi-state, multi-product industrial empire was being drawn back toward its Pennsylvania home.

In February 2007, The Marmon Group sold Cerro Metal Products Company to **Bolton MKM Corporation**, a British metals company headquartered in Aldrich, Walsall, West Midlands, England. The Bellefonte operation was renamed Bolton Metal Products Company. It was a significant change — the first time in the plant's history that control had passed entirely outside the United States.

It was also the beginning of the end.

On February 1, 2008, Bolton MKM announced the sale of the Bellefonte manufacturing business and equipment to Chase Brass and Copper of Ohio — and simultaneously announced the closure of the Bellefonte rod and wire manufacturing operation. The California distribution center had already been shuttered the month before.

After 93 years of continuous operation — through two world wars, the Great Depression, the Korean War, the Cold War, and the globalization of the metals industry — the furnaces at the Axemann Road campus went cold.

What remained was remarkable: approximately 473,000 square feet of industrial building space across multiple structures on 173.60 acres of land in the Bellefonte valley. Plant 1. Plant 4 — built by the federal government in 1944 at the height of the war effort and still standing, structurally sound, with heavy industrial infrastructure in place. Plant 6. The Annex. The Office Building. A wastewater treatment plant. A rail spur. Owned electrical substations. Decades of capital investment embedded in concrete, steel, and brick.

The campus was not demolished. It was not subdivided and sold off. The land and buildings remained as a single assemblage — waiting.

What the Sieg family had built from scratch in 1915, what Cerro had modernized through the 1960s and 70s, what generations of Centre County families had worked within — it was all still there. Reclaimed, but not yet reimagined.

That work was still to come.

Next: How Titan Park was born — and the 46 businesses that now call this campus home.

ARTICLE 6 OF 6

Reclaimed Space: The Rebirth of Titan Park

From shuttered brass mill to thriving multi-tenant campus — and what comes next

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When manufacturing left the Axemann Road campus in 2008, it left behind something rare: a structurally intact, heavily capitalized industrial campus in the heart of Centre County, Pennsylvania — still served by its own electrical substations, still connected by rail, still sitting on 173 acres of valley floor with buildings that had been built to last.

The question was whether those buildings had a future.

Navitus LLC, managed by McCrossin, Inc., acquired the campus and began the patient work of reimagining it — not as a site to be cleared and redeveloped, but as a place to be reactivated. The name chosen for the reborn property said everything: **Titan Park**. The heritage wasn't a liability. It was the brand.

The transformation didn't happen overnight. It happened tenant by tenant, suite by suite, bay by bay.

Today, Titan Park is home to approximately **46 tenants** spanning a remarkable range of industries and businesses — a community unto itself on a campus that once employed nearly 2,000 people under a single corporate banner. Walk the campus today and you'll encounter:

Light manufacturing and fabrication — metalworkers, fabricators, and specialty manufacturers who find in Titan Park the heavy floors, crane infrastructure, overhead clearance, and industrial power that modern industrial parks simply cannot replicate. Mustang Fabrications, a precision metal fabricator, operates from a 22,000+ square foot suite in Plant 6. The bones of the brass mill turn out to be ideal for the next generation of makers.

Trades and contractor operations — electrical contractors, service businesses, and skilled tradespeople who need real working space, not suburban office parks. The loading docks, overhead doors, and drive-in bays that once served Cerro's shipping department now serve a new generation of Centre County businesses.

Professional services — insurance agencies, consultants, and professional offices that have found character and community in a campus unlike any conventional office park. Titan Park's Office Building provides finished, climate-controlled space while remaining embedded in an authentically industrial setting.

Specialty retail and experiential businesses — including Axemann Brewery, a craft brewery that has made the campus a destination for Centre County beer lovers; Titan Hollow Cidery, putting down roots on the same ground that once produced Pennsylvania's finest brass rod; and Brass 16823, an event venue that leans fully into the industrial aesthetic, offering a stunning setting for weddings, corporate events, and private gatherings unlike anything else in the region. It's fitting that a campus named for craftsmanship is now home to businesses defined by it.

Technology and data infrastructure — the campus is currently engaged with data center tenants and large-scale power users drawn to Titan Park's exceptional utility infrastructure, including dual substation access (Novinger Substation #1 and Traynor Substation #2) serving the campus at 46,000 volts. The same electrical backbone that once powered extrusion presses capable of 5,500 tons of force is now positioned to serve the next economy.

What makes Titan Park distinct isn't just the square footage — it's the story embedded in every beam and every bay.

Plant 4, the building the federal government constructed in 1944 to help win World War II, is still in active use. The extrusion press pits where Cerrobelle once produced a ton of brass per minute are part of the physical fabric of the campus. The rail spur that once brought raw copper billets now adds character and history to a property unlike any other in Central Pennsylvania.

The tagline — **Reclaimed Space · Bellefonte, PA** — captures exactly that duality. This is space with history. Space with infrastructure. Space that has served the nation through wars and recessions and industrial transformations, and is now serving a new generation of businesses, makers, and entrepreneurs.

From William Philip Sieg's 14 employees in 1915 to 46 tenants in 2026. From Pennsylvania's only brass rod mill to the region's most distinctive multi-use industrial campus. From Army-Navy E Award to event venue, cidery, brewery, data center, and fabrication shop.

Some things are built to last. Titan Park is one of them.

Titan Park is located at 2000/2022/2080 Axemann Road, Bellefonte, PA 16823. For leasing inquiries, contact Luke Vadala at lvadala@mccrossin.com or 814-933-0694. Follow Titan Park on LinkedIn for more on the campus, its tenants, and what's coming next.

Series complete. Articles 1–6: The History of Titan Park.