



A Salem industry which has doubled gross sales each year since 1948 is the Morrow Radio Manufacturing Co., 2794 Market St.—a good example of the city's growing industrial potential. Shown above at one of the plant's assembly lines currently turning out amateur short wave band converters for automobile radios are from left to right Mrs. James Stettler, Salem Route No. 2, Box 444; Miss Faith Lueff, 215 Kenwood Ave.; Mrs. Orval Prunk, 4350 Monroe Ave., and Mrs. Dale Marr, 2455 Trade St. (Statesman photo.)

Radio Manufacturer Doubles Output Again

By VAN EISENHUT
Staff Writer, The Statesman

An example of Salem's growing industry is the Morrow Radio Manufacturing Co., 2794 Market St., one of the few companies in the United States devoted exclusively to the manufacture of amplitude modulation equipment. The organization has doubled gross sales each year since 1948, according to owner Ray Morrow. Sales during 1953 totaled \$170,000, he added, and the present business level indicates the total this year should exceed \$350,000.

Specializing in portable and fixed portable two-way radio equipment, the company has as a prime project the manufacture of transmitter and receiver units for state and federal forestry departments. A second major sales source is the amateur radio fan, Morrow explained.

Forestry units range from a quarter-watt power set about the size of a two-pound cheese carton to 250-watt sets designed primarily for district ranger stations. The Salem manufactured units are sold all over the United States but the largest outlet is in the east coast area, Morrow revealed.

Assembly line production is a feature of the 75,000 square foot plant which employs from 25 to 30 persons. Much of the more intricate assembly work is done by women. "They're a lot neater and faster than men," the plant owner maintained, "and there's no back talk."

Almost all component parts are manufactured by the company and sub-assembly cuts production time by at least a third, he added. The plant includes a sheet metal shop, machine shop and paint room.

One of the fastest growing markets for the Salem company is in the amateur radio field. Presently in production is a converter which changes a car radio into a short-wave receiver. Morrow explained he devised the converter after buying a commercial unit and finding it unsatisfactory.

A one-station radio receiver, constructed in the shape of a table microphone, is one of the company's novelty productions. Commercial broadcasting companies all over the country have ordered them as promotional items to install in business firms which advertise with them, Morrow said.

Morrow, who has lived in Salem for 34 years, operated a retail or wholesale radio business here for 10 years before switching to manufacturing in 1948. Although he has no formal education in radio, Morrow designs and perfects all equipment produced by the plant.

"I grew up with radio and have been working with it since I was 12," he said. The company also has graduate engineers on the research staff.

"This particular radio field has almost unlimited possibilities," Morrow declared.

"It's only a matter of designing and producing new and better equipment." He figures the plant will outgrow its present leased location in about three years.

"After that we plan to expand either by erecting our own building or leasing additional space."

Equalization Board School Meets Here

Approximately 65 members of county equalization boards, including Multnomah County, met in Salem Thursday for the first equalization board school sponsored by the State Tax Commission.

Samuel Stewart, in charge of the assessment and taxation division of the State Tax Commission, presided.

Keizer, Bush School Pupils Postpone Trip

A trip scheduled in May by two Salem area students and their teachers to Valley Forge for the Freedom Foundation Pilgrimage has been postponed until September, according to Walter Beck, principal at Bush School.

Reason for the postponement, he explained, is the number of conventions slated in the Philadelphia area during May which would make housing unavailable for Freedom Foundation guests.

Slated to make the trip are Keizer School seventh grader Eugene Gilbertson and principal, Mrs. Carmelita I. Weddle, and Bush School fifth grader Clara Sloan and her teacher, Mrs. Alice Robinson. Eugene is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Rolf Gilbertson, 4720 Clark St., and Clara is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sloan, 395 S. 16th St.

The trips were won in the annual Freedom Foundation nationwide competition by submitting winning displays and samples of work along the theme "What America Means to Me."

Aussie Diplomats Leave for Home

MOSCOW — The Australian Embassy staff left Moscow Thursday night by train for Helsinki. Nearly 300 members of the diplomatic colony gathered to give them a farewell toast.

Their departure followed the Soviet action in severing diplomatic relations with Australia over the case of Vladimir Petrov, the Soviet Embassy official in Canberra who quit his post and obtained political asylum there.

Librarians Open Conference Today

CORVALLIS — More than 175 Oregon librarians are expected here for a two-day conference starting Friday.

Speakers will include State Sen. Robert Holmes, Gearhart; Stewart Holbrook, Portland author, and Samuel B. Stewart, state tax commissioner.

Stewart explained it was essential for the equalization boards to actually perform their statutory duties. These duties, he said, included consideration of taxpayers' complaints involving over-taxation, inequalities and illegal assessments.

Procedure, involving organization of the boards and the method of giving relief, also was emphasized.

A manual prepared by the State Tax Commission for guidance of the equalization boards was distributed among those in attendance.

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Talk to Outline Civil Disaster Medical Aid

The role of medical assistants in the civil defense disaster action plans will be outlined at the meeting of members of the Medical Assistants Section of Marion County Civil Defense at 8 p.m. Wednesday in the Bush School Auditorium, according to Mrs. Bernice Yeary, chief of the section.

Mrs. Frances C. Nabbe, chief nursing consultant of the Federal Civil Defense Administration, from Washington, D. C., will be the principal speaker. Others on the program will be Col. Arthur M. Sheets, director of the Oregon State Civil Defense Agency, and Dr. Ralph E. Purvine, acting medical director of OSCDA.

The meeting will be the first of a series of group and specialized unit sessions constituting a refresher course in their particular line of activity, and also to show how the group as a whole is integrated into the general civil defense program of Marion County, Mrs. Yeary said.

The medical assistants section includes graduate nurses, public health nurses, practical nurses, nurses' aides, X-ray technicians, dental assistants, laboratory technicians, anesthetists and dieticians, who will support and assist the physicians and surgeons in the medical section in disaster relief work.

Marion County Civil Defense, Marion County Chapter of the Red Cross, the polio association and the public health nurses group is completing a survey of county residents who are qualified for the various types of work included in the responsibilities of the Medical Assistants section.

The survey covers those now actively engaged in practice and those who have been inactive but who are interested in taking the refresher courses offered. All are invited to attend the Wednesday meeting, Mrs. Yeary said.

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