

The Hanford Story-

(The following is the last of a series of seven articles disclosing the highlights and sidelights which have accompanied the nation's development of atomic energy. Prepared at the Hanford atomic energy plant, the series deals with the human things which followed in the wake of the first historic announcement that man had harnessed the atom. It touches upon the things which lie ahead.)

By Bill Jury
General Electric News Bureau
Hanford Atomic Plant

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On a national scale, the atomic energy industry has done a lot of maturing since its beginning during World War II. It has settled down from a "crash" project—full of unknowns, slated to last no longer than the war which gave birth to it—to a business, based on well-understood principles, operating on clearly defined long-range plans. The atomic plant at Hanford, Washington is still a good illustration of the change.

Built in a life-and-death race with time, the first atomic reactors and separations plants at Hanford, though primitive by today's standards, have since been called an engineering marvel.

Much of the research and development work behind improvements revealed by the Atomic Energy Commission's semi-annual reports to Congress was performed in laboratories located at Hanford. The job work still is in progress—aimed at finding further improvements.

Eventually, the production of electric power will be the economic basis of a strong, privately owned and operated atomic industry, some experts believe. And it is expected that the rapidly growing atomic energy industry will grow still larger as private industry moves into it.

The atomic energy program now includes around \$5 billion worth of plant facilities and will, within a few years, represent an investment of more than \$8 billion. Hanford, the plutonium-producing plant operated by General Electric company for the Atomic Energy Commission, already has become a billion-dollar plant.

The atomic industry has been described as one of high investment per employee and low investment turnover. Its similarity in financial characteristics to the utility industry makes it necessary that it have a steady, practicable market for what it produces if it is to be run successfully by private companies.

Electric power is held as the only answer, for the weapons market is subject to too much fluctuation. Because the nation is using electricity in ever-increasing quantities (the demand doubles about every 10 or 15 years), atomic power not only is regarded as the answer to the growth of a healthy, privately owned atomic industry, but as a welcome addition to the conventional sources of power.

From the point of view of world supply of energy, the utilization of atomic energy is becoming a "must."

GE's top atomic official has predicted that privately financed atomic power plant will compete successfully with conventional power plants in five to ten years.

Francis K. McCune, general manager of the GE Atomic Products Division, recently forecast that electric utility companies will be owning and operating a number of atomic power plants within the next 10 years. He said he believed some of these will be full-scale and, what is more important, they will generate electricity at competitive cost.

"We believe that this will be accomplished without government-supplied fuel priced at cost-of-production levels," McCune declared.

The time has arrived, he added,

IONE School Notes

Ione public schools will open September 6th with a short get acquainted period, which will help the children in both the grades and the high school to somewhat familiarize themselves with school routine. The children will then be dismissed.

On September 1st all teachers will meet at 10:00 a. m. for a general meeting. This meeting will be primarily for new teachers to acquaint themselves with the administration, supervision and organization of the school.

A date will be set for all first graders' parents to meet with Mrs. Harriet Hall, the first grade teacher, so that she might explain the program, discuss each child individually with the parents, and also have a general discussion of what is expected of a first grader. This will also be done for the second and third grades if parents would care to have this general orientation.

As a second reminder for all first graders, high school freshmen, and all athletes who plan to go out for football, it is required that they have a physical examination. First graders are also required to present a birth certificate.

when we can look toward definite goals in the area of commercial atomic power—goals that can and will be achieved, and almost inevitably will lead to expansion into a power age of great proportions with resultant benefits in human well-being.

All high school students will please register on one of these days—August 29th or 30th.

The hiring of Miss Zara Zoe Porfily for girls' P. E. and Health has completed the Ione teaching staff for the coming school year. Miss Porfily comes to Ione from Prineville. She is a graduate of Oregon State. This past summer she has been handling a girls' summer recreational program, composed of about 150 girls, for the city of Prineville.

There are still two women teachers, who will be new to the Ione school system, looking for a furnished apartment. If there are any vacancies in Ione, please contact the school superintendent, who will gladly make arrangements for them.

A secretary for the school will be hired this week and all who may be interested are asked to please contact Phil Newitt, superintendent.

The last day for the pool to be open to the public this summer will be August 27th. The pool will then be used in the school's P. E. and health program. It is hoped that everyone, children and adults alike, have enjoyed themselves. The pool will again be open to the public next summer.

This year's summer work on the school plant has been mostly minor repairs, such as painting, sealing floors, washing windows, and general upkeep of the buildings.

Superintendent Phil Newitt would like to have all parents interested in their child's general welfare to come to his office any time throughout the school year to discuss the school program or to discuss any problems that may

Lexington News

By Delpha Jones

Guests at the O. G. Breeding home over the weekend were: Mrs. Burl Maynard and children of Colville, Wash., a sister of Mr. Breeding, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Breeding and son Floyd of Stanfield, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Livingston, and Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Livingston of Spray, and Dave Catlin and sons of Lake City, California.

Max Breeding and Paul Breeding visited at the Don Grant home in Yamhill last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Gailey Marshall of Oakridge, Oregon have been visiting at the Kenneth Marshall and L. E. Ruhl homes.

Guy Hastings, Paul Breeding, Gladys Young and daughter Cris are in Portland this week on business.

Mrs. W. E. McMillan and daughter Patricia Sawyer and baby visited in Cove last Thursday where they met Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Horton of Grants Pass, who were there vacationing.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Kendall and daughters visited their daughter Janet, who is employed at the Hughes home Saturday. Charles Jones returned home with them for a visit.

Rev. and Mrs. L. G. Wetzel spent the weekend in Astoria. The Wetzel children stayed at the Leonard home.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Brent

are interfering with their child's progress, in which case by co-operation of both teachers and parents these problems will tend to decrease.

are enjoying a well earned vacation.

Keith Grey, Cherry Grey and sister Mickey and George Hermann and Anna Jepsen motored to camp Lake of the Woods, near Klamath Falls to get Mrs. Nita Grey who has been there this summer serving as a camp counselor.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Barok and Mr. and Mrs. Randy Lott and Mr. and Mrs. Don Hatfield spent Sunday at Cove.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Hatfield and sons and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Martin and sons are vacationing in Wal-lowa and Cove.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Jones and son Kenneth spent Sunday visiting at the Dick McComber home in Mt. Vernon and the Byres Deardorff home in Prairie City.

C. N. Henry Maxwell Breeding of the U. S. Navy is spending a few days with his parents, Mr.

and Mrs. O. G. Breeding. Max has just returned to the states after 9 months spent in the Philippines. He is going to take 12 weeks mechanic schooling and will then return to the island.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack O'Harra of Portland are the parents of a daughter Susan Patricia. Mr. and Mrs. Newt O'Harra are the grandparents.

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