

Basic Bombardier

VOL. 1, No. 45

May 21, 1943

LAST BRICK'S LAID HERE ON WORLD'S BIGGEST JOB



LAYING THE LAST ONE:--William Maudsley, BMI Refractories superintendent lays the last washtower in Unit No. 10. Left to right, watching the finish of the world's biggest brick job are H. G. Satterthwaite, Basic General Superintendent; B. W. McNeil, McNeil Construction Company Gen-

eral Manager; Eddie Cleeton, McNeil General Superintendent of Masonry; Mr. Maudsley, J. R. Charles, assistant to the Superintendent, B.M.I.; P. O. Case, Basic General Manager and S. J. Fletcher, assistant to the Superintendent, Basic.

LAST BRICK OF 20,000,000, completing the largest refractory job in world history, was laid a few days ago in a Metal Unit 10 wash tower. Eddie Cleeton, McNeil General Superintendent of Masonry, and William Maudsley, English Masonry Consultant, BMI, did the honors.

This \$15,000,000 story is perhaps better told in figures than words. The total number of bricks, expressed in 9-inch standard size, included 18,500,500 acid and 1,500,000 fire brick; but there were more than 700 different shapes and sizes, some weighing 110 pounds each, others having as many as 15 "buttering surfaces" for mortar. They came from all the larger manufacturers in the United States, trainload after trainload. Grinding was a tremendous item in their placement. Cost ranged up to \$12 a piece.

At the peak of work 950 masons and 450 laborers were employed, and 1,200,000 man hours were utilized in the huge task. One phase of the job included making and laying eight and a half miles of concrete casting.

Principal distribution of brick throughout the plant was: Preparation Building, 548,000 acid and 788,000 fire brick; Electrolysis Buildings, 1,575,000 acid; Chlorination Buildings, 1,402,000 acid; Effluent Systems, 160,000 acid; furbo Neutralization Tanks, 108,000 acid; Acid Pickling Tanks, 40,000 acid; Refineries, 108,000 fire brick, and Elux Plant 9000 fire. Quarry and building tile, 8,980,000 pieces, ran into seven figures, and other items included: Muriatic acid, 47 tons; ice, 4000 tons, to keep mortar freezing cold; slag wool, 177 tons; processed lime, 5054 sacks; plaster sand, 10,000 cubic yards; cement, 2525 tons; grog, 587 tons; sodium silicate, 185 tons; fire clay, 80 tons; silica sand, 40 tons; and various other items too numerous to mention. These data will give an idea of the extent of the enterprise.

PROCESS PREVIEW FOR NEW WORKERS WITH MAGNESIUM

NEW EMPLOYEES of BMI will have a preview of the entire magnesium production process before going to their jobs under an orientation program being prepared by the Training Section. It will include slide pictures procedure from the mine at Gabbs to the Shipping Department in the Refinery. Many are spectacular, such as views charging molten magnesium chloride into the electrolytic cells, pouring metal into "cheeses" for the Refinery, and pouring alloys at the Refinery into ingots for bomb manufacture, etc.

It is felt that the interest of new employees can be doubled by giving them the whole story of their work. Each will also receive a printed booklet containing the facts of the plant's development, answers to questions most frequently asked, and appropriate cartoons. Orientation is one of seven different activities under Training Supervisor J. D. Keyes. Roland Seibert is handling the orientation.

THEATER GOES UP FAST

ONE OF THE LARGEST, and by the same token most modern, theaters in Nevada is rising rapidly in the business center of Basic Townsite. Completion is scheduled for July 15 and Ass't. Supt. of Construction, Forrest Kimball, says McNeil will have it done on time. It's a popular DPC enterprise, long looked forward to by local thousands.

The seating capacity will be 850. Every man on the job is promised a free show for himself and family when the picture house opens. Earl Brothers of Boulder City will manage the new theater.

BASIC PROCESS WILL FEATURE SUNDAY PARADE

Those who witness the Helldorado Parade in Las Vegas Sunday night will see how magnesium is made at BMI. Basic has entered ten vehicles which will depict the process from mine to packaged product. McNeil is entering two floats featuring construction of the great Vegas plant.

In addition several yum-yums from Basic will be seen as entrants in the Bathing Beauty contest. They will ride bicycles. As this is written--to be published on Friday--plans had been completed for Basic's Shotgun Wedding entry in the Old Time Parade of Thursday evening.

Throughout the week workers in plant and office blossomed out in western garb as project employees entered into the spirit of the Helldorado. This is the kind of co-operation that cements friendship among the various communities of these here parts.

GOOD LUCK BONDS

WHAT'S A FELLER to do who gets a sudden windfall of a \$5000 war bond? Purchase a little ranch near San Dimas, California, after the war, says his wife, Mrs. Harry W. Segelke. Settled, he agrees. He came to work for McNeil over a year ago as Material Checker, Sheet Metal Stores, and they live at 23 Idaho Way. From 1920 Los Angeles was their home. Segelke was critically wounded in World War I in France.

Recipients of \$1000 were: Hal L. Piercy, BMI, Chlorination No. 7, married; Charles J. Etheridge, BMI, Typewriter Maintenance, wife, two children; R. F. Inglett, McNeil, Rigger, unmarried; Claude Rusing, lately terminated McNeil laborer, single; W. E. Smith, McNeil Ass't. General Superintendent of Utilities, married. Veteran on project.



The man behind this five-thousand dollar War Bond Smile is Harry W. Segelke.

Denominations of \$500 went to: R. W. Jones, McNeil, Sheet Metal Worker, wife; Elmer A. Burgess, BMI, Instrument Man in Mechanical Maintenance, married; Lonnie Smith, BMI, Cell Attendant, single; Miss Ada Borgstat, Hospital Stenographer (Line forms on left, gents!); E. C. Trammell, McNeil, Electrical, wife; J. A. Kelly, McNeil, Electrician, unmarried; Warren Jewell, BMI, laborer, wife, two daughters; D. H. Thomas, McNeil, Sheet Metal worker, wife; Jack R. Thayer, McNeil, Chief Clerk Transportation, married; Edward Emerson, McNeil, Car Loader, wife and daughter.

To 100 persons bonds of \$100 each were awarded, bringing the total of purchase and distribution to \$25,000. Every penny of the cash went to Uncle Sam, so everybody's happy over having helped a good cause--the rubbing out of Hitler & Co.

HOLD UP THE FLAG--BUY VICTORY BONDS.

HOSTESS CLUB MEETING

Regular business meeting and dinner,
Hotel Biltmore, 7:30, May 28

THEY MAKE NOTABLE ATTENDANCE RECORD MODERN CAFETERIA BUILDING UNDERWAY



Hilary Raab, Ass't. Superintendent of Electrolysis, congratulates Roy Blue, center, and Floyd Cress on their faithful attendance and continued good work.

LAST AUGUST 31, the day before the first metal was poured, Roy Blue and Floyd Cress were hired by Hilary Raab, Ass't. Superintendent of Electrolysis, and not a shift has been missed by either of the two since, on Units 3 and 4 bridge. Blue, engaged as a metalter, was promoted to sub-foreman and union shift foreman, successively, while Cress, taken on as a smelter, duplicated this performance. It shows the opportunities for advancement in BML through attention to duty. Mr. Raab, by the way, is the man who brought in the plant's first metal unit.

Chlorine

PROMOTIONS CONTINUE to be much the order of the day in the Chlorine Area. Mitchell Mazur was elevated from Shift Foreman to Staff Assistant in the office. Mr. Elmer Hughes, previously a cell attendant, took the Shift Foreman position left by Mr. Mazur. Wallie Highfill was made sub-foreman in Cell Renewal. Delmar Steinberg was promoted from utility and reifer operator to Cell Attendant. John Bickerstaff moved from the Brine Area to utility and relief operator in the Cell House. Edgar Connell was transferred from repairman to machinist.

JACK PEAVY and FRED SAUL, both of the Caustic Evaporation Plant, are passing cigars in celebration of the arrival of boys at their homes. All concerned are doing "nicely".

ADDED TO HYDROGEN women employees of the Cell House in the Chlorine Area last week were Gayle Dawson and Hazel McCabe. These women are taking men's jobs.

CHLORINE PLANT production attained 85% capacity when Circuit No. 5 went into operation on May 8th, according to S. W. Stockdale, Superintendent. Each of the five circuits consists of 150 cells now making a total of 750 units producing.

Recovery

RECOVERY AVERAGED \$21.50 per man in the second War Loan Drive, providing Uncle Sam with about \$3000. About 75% of the crews were 100%. Congratulations to all for their fine efforts.

JAMES YOUNGBLOOD is to be congratulated for his promotion to Foreman "H" in Unit 5. The Army and Navy took a lot of our good material to make fighting men. Wishes for a speedy round-trip to Tokyo go to C. Dearing, Operator; H. J. Harden, Helper; A. Orso, Helper; R. E. Block, Operator; G. N. Blanchard, Foreman; F. D. Buhl, Helper; L. R. Dennewell, Operator and L. Wilcox, Operator.

RECOVERY CIRCUIT 92 has joined the producing ranks. Won't be long until we're recovering an amount of muriatic (hydro-

chloric) acid equal to half the total U.S. annual production prior to the War.

VIC SOUTHERS, a foreman who has been with us since the start-up of Recovery last year, went to California because of poor health, but he's back again - says living and working conditions are better here than there. Wish some of the "easily discouraged" could read his letter. . . Bill Iig, foreman, Recovery #5, is in a stew because he misses the wife's cooking - she's back East renewing family acquaintances. Foreman Clarin's "Little lovely" is a long time coming from California - he's meeting every train.

IT'LL NOT BE LONG until the Coffee Shop becomes but a memory. Just to the north are rising the steel-and-concrete frame and brick walls of a permanent structure to house the new BML Cafeteria. This is to be completed in about 45 days and open immediately thereafter. Although designed for utmost utility the factor of attractiveness was considered and the place will be pleasing in every way. Within a week after DPC approval Structural Engineering had completed the plans and McNeil forces were on the job.

Approximately 111 by 184 feet, the building will have a main dining room seating 100 and a coffee shop accommodating 60 or more, the total space almost doubling the present Coffee Shop. There is also a room for food preparation to service the canteens. The kitchen and its adjuncts, such as the bakery, will be thoroughly modern, and dishwashing will be with live steam. Employees will have a special diningroom, showers, and lockers.

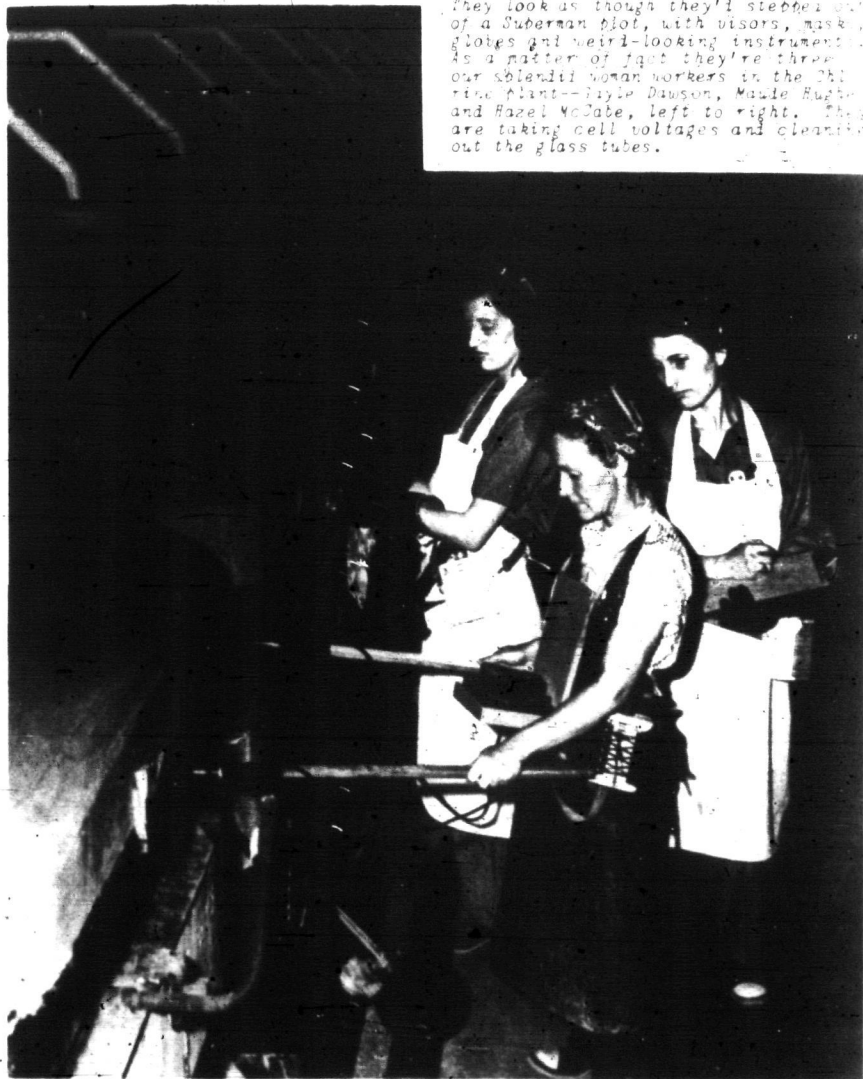
Manager Jack Walsh of Anderson's has ready new equipment of the latest type and promises service second to none anywhere as to speed and quality of food. Fill your tray!

BEAUTY SHOP CHANGE

Basic Beauty Shop, Townsite, has changed ownership, having been purchased from the O'Dells by Fire Guard and Mrs. Charles A. See. It is being conducted by Mrs. See, who is an experienced operator.

HYDROGEN WOMEN

They look as though they'll step out of a Superman plot, with visors, masks, gloves and weird-looking instruments. As a matter of fact they're three of our splendid woman workers in the Chlorine Plant--Gayle Dawson, Maude Hughes and Hazel McCabe, left to right. They are taking cell voltages and cleaning out the glass tubes.



ALL THESE ON THE PROJECT SINCE SEPTEMBER, 1941



BMI pioneers: They worked in the air-plant hangar at Boulder City in September, 1941 and are still here. They can take it! Rear row, left to right--Paul Lebergold, ass't. secretary; W. S. Dwyer, chief designer, engineering; Ed Ansley, insurance and taxes; J. Horowitz, estimating; John Brant, designing; Helene Eichaker, stenographic supervisor; Al in

Larson, structural engineering; Joseph S. Larkin, storekeeper; C. S. Meister, mechanical maintenance; D. W. Stewart, sub't. technical service; Dr. Max Muller, project engineer; J. V. Ruiz, chlorination; Dave Wooster, metals plant. Seated, l. to r.--Leona Gravelle, secretary; T. W. Harris, ass't. treasurer; Dr. S. J. Fletcher, ass't. to general superintend-

ent; H. W. Gale, Jr., office service supervisor; Ernest Bernari, general stores; J. R. Charles, ass't. to general superintendent; Dr. A. J. Foyle, chemical control; Harley C. Lee, ass't. sub't. technical service; Jerome Simon, specifications; Robert McKee, accounts payable; Hella Regard, sub't. office supply and printing.

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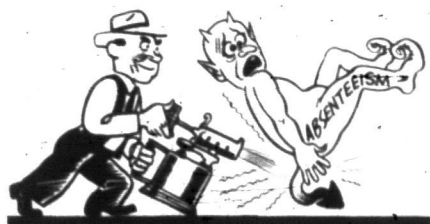
GEN. MACARTHUR SETS AN EXAMPLE FOR US

SINCE PEARL HARBOR General MacArthur has not been "absent" a day. Can you say as much for your attendance and devotion to your job?

Among our forces on the battle fronts there is no inexcusable absenteeism. The men who are fighting for us, offering up their lives, are at duty's call every minute. By what right can there be shirking among those at home, upon whom they must rely for their needs? Are we dependable?

As magnesium soldiers at BMI our course is clear--to be on the job every day, to work, to produce! Nothing less will suffice. Nothing less is honorable.

TURNING ON THE HEAT



Purchasing

PURCHASING'S Rosy Larson is proud. Her son, Dick, was elected valedictorian of his eighth-grade graduating class. That isn't all . . . this esteemed young man of 13 won himself a trip to San Bernardino as a special award from the Boy Scouts. Evidently ability runs in the Larson family.

WE WELCOME to Purchasing Mrs. Emma Beardslee, formerly of Boston. Mrs. Lila Ward, also a newcomer, hails from El Centro, California. Mrs. Ward was recently the postmistress at Pittman.

THAT HAPPY GLEAM in Blanche Lauritzen's eye is because of a certain aviator down in Texas. They are going to be married June 21. The lucky man is Cadet Thad Edwards, pride of Frostproof, Florida.

ORREL MYERS, a sailor, is in town visiting his sister, June, who, incidentally, is the department's messenger girl. With that sharp uniform and the good looks of the Myers family, he really rates as a "top job".

F. W. SWITZER, our Director, is now firmly ensconced in his Boulder City home with his wife and family who recently joined him.

THREE ACES make a pretty nifty display at almost any time. Mrs. Anna Slater, our filing whiz, found such a showing worth \$38--a pool that afforded her 50 cents spending money and the price of a \$50 war bond.

GIRL FLYERS WANTED



Wilma Morgan, flight commander, right, and Sally Hatton, 1st flight captain, among the newly-elected officers; plan a future for their organization.

WOMEN ARE TAKING to the skies more and more, as indicated by recent organization of the Alamo Aces, Girls' Flying Club, with two BMI girls among the officers--Sally Hatton and La Rue Campbell, the latter 2nd flight captain. More air-minded women are wanted as members and a drive is coming up. At a future meeting the objectives and aspirations of the club will be fully explained, as will also the requirements of the Air Force Ferry Command for woman pilots. Membership free.

Refineries

REFINERY NEWS this week is limited, due to the transfer of our former loyal and able reporter, Samuel D. Clinton, to Preparation.

J-1 REFINERY, our current pride and joy, will soon yield honors to its streamlined sister, J-2, just across the street. Another two or three weeks and that monster will be adding much to the Axis' woes.

SHOULD ANYONE have any doubt as to the effectiveness of women in the great battle of magnesium, one look at our ingot-packers will settle the point. The great amount of metal transported and packaged each day by them is a military secret, but, it's mighty good news to all of us. Their attendance record is likewise an enviable one and a splendid example to all concerned.

FOR SAVING LIFE

RED CROSS WANTS 15 men or women--Senior Life Savers or good swimmers--for taking the two-week instructors' swimming course in June. These would teach the children swimming in Vegas Wash this summer. Give name and address to Harold Finley or Mrs. Robert Finlayson, 147 Manganese.

NEW AID TO EMPLOYEES

To handle all cases of Workmen's Compensation and Accident Benefits incurred by employees a separate Claims Section has been set up by the Legal Department in Room E-6, Administration Building, under supervision of Hugh Thatcher. He will be available to employees at all times to assist in preparation of claims and give necessary aid to facilitate settlement.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Communications must be concise and under 200 words. Publication does not imply concurrence of Basic Bombardier in the views expressed here by contributors.

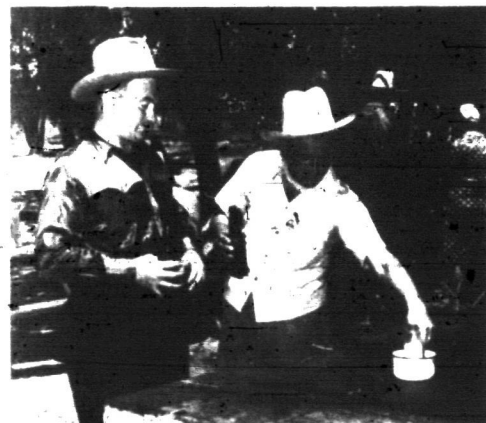
WAR AIMS OF A BMI WORKER

My hope is that I may be able to contribute sufficient effort on my job to construct one bomber plane, produce sufficient metal to load the plane with bombs, and to buy bonds enough to fuel the ship for one successful flight over Germany or Japan.

(Signed) E. K. Dickerson,

Sub-station Operator.

HAD A PICNIC



OFFICE WORKERS PICNIC: Peter Lett with a blonde behind him and a camera in front, Roland Seibert, sizzling third-sacker of the fat men's team, didn't keep his eye on the ball. The Hostess Club catcher is Lorraine Probert. In the left photo, Dennis Francis Keyes, training supervisor while Al Weinberg, Assistant Payable, warms a shot of milk for the Keyes 8-weeks old daughter. John appears satisfied. Center: It's a picture of LaRue Campbell of Personnel Records. LaRue won the contest for the best looking legs in the office. She is shown holding an envelope containing the \$25 cash prize donated by Al Hille of the Yellow Cab Company. Look again and you'll see the envelope. Right: Senator Pat McCarran senior jogwearer from Nevada dropped in on the picnickers at the McNeil Ranch and enjoyed the fun. The Silver Senator is shown with Tom Hazzard, president of the Hostess Club.

Yeah—BMI Office Workers had a picnic. Hostess Club netted 100 bucks selling stuff. Fat men beat Hostess gals at what was called a ball game. Score: 113 to 107; three innings.

Four families walked off with most of the prizes. LaRue Campbell won the girls' leg show and her mother, Mrs. A. W. Campbell won women's nail driving. Terry Weinberg won girls' obstacle race and her old man Al, teamed with Glen Beckwith, grabbed men's three-legged race. Bob Fikkin took the men's obstacle while his wife, Iva, paired with Mrs. Bob Smith, won the girls' three-legged dash. Then along came veteran Bob Smith to romp away with the diaper-changing tournament. Duke Eide was voted possessor of the best men's legs. Which isn't saying very much.

Thanks to these: Larry McNeil for use of his ranch; Vegas merchants for donating prizes; ditto Townsite Market; Jack Walsh for equipment; Merle Miller, USO for giving the kids a good time.

Neutralization

PROGRESS: Our foreman of the New Flux Plant, J. Val LeSteur, must surely be a happy lad with a brand new plant to pour forth the Flux that's in such great demand. Instead of pouring over specifications and drawings he will now see the wheels go round. He's a Mining Engineer of the Missouri School of Mines and has spent years in research work.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS: May 24, Frank Mc-intee will see another birthday go by. We all wish him a triple happiness for he's a jolly good fellow!

PERSONALITY OF THE WEEK: "Chief" Evans, leadman and Acting Foreman for the Process labor gang, is so nicknamed by the boys, but is really a descendant of the Northern California and Southern Oregon Modocs, one of the largest Indian Tribes of the West Coast. His hobby is archaeology, ruins and caves in Nevada, California, Utah and Colorado. His findings he has always turned over to the Government, with the seal of secrecy on what he's done to up-set some claims of scientists before him. He has had to shelve

this worthy hobby for the war effort and is doing a good job, as his contacts in Process Labor work attest.

RECOVERING: Herbert Chappelle has been in BMI's hospital but reports are he should be back on the job in our Clean-out gang before this goes to press.

UNASHAMED: Frank Sandoval went back to farming in New Mexico but returned in less than 10 days to his Chlorinator Cleanout job, and brought a brother, Isidro.

QUESTION: Charles Larsen asks why Collie LaVie, foreman at Neutralization, and past master at baking biscuits, doesn't submit his recipe to Prep for making pellets.

General Office

EYES THE OTHER WAY, boys! Peggy Coats, the little page girl with dimples and pert Irish-tilted nose, is now Cpl. Bishop's missus, and custodian of their ration books. As we say around the office, this change of status took place at the First Methodist Church of Hollywood.

SALLY HATTON, Paul Levenson's sec., won the pool bet on the Kentucky derby—\$10.

TOM CRAWFORD, Safety Department, is busily patching the boat he owns jointly with Marion Brooks, of Metals. The speedy but slippery craft has been hibernating eight months beneath Lake Mead's smiling face. The boys are whipping up enthusiasm for the formation of a BMI Yacht Club. How about it, boat owners?

CALM, COMELY Mary Jane Bellows is pinch-hitting for Miss Eichaker while the latter is vacationing. Mary Jane, with a little footwork, manages to keep both offices going.

BETTER PROTECTION THERE

Townsite Fire Station has been completed and would be a credit to any city. It is already partially equipped for service.

Plant Protection

INVESTIGATION SECTION welcomes Elmer Johansen, formerly of Guard Section, who's been assigned to absentee investigation. He was formerly associated with the State Attorney's office, Sacramento. . . Bob Hall is in a camp near Riverside and is lined up for appointment as army physical instructor, a natural for him. Big Bob threw the shot-put in the 1932 Olympics and was one of Howard Jones' stalwarts at S. C. . . Bob Libert has transferred from McNeil's and is now a staff assistant here. . . One of the tough policing jobs is Gate 1, and Guard Frank Millner is credited with doing a very tactful job there. . . Investigator Elmo Ellsworth has become a "rock hound" in spare hours.

Laboratory

THOSE OHS AND AHS you will be hearing one day will come from the delighted Lab. personnel when they, test tubes and sundry paraphernalia, are transferred to the cool, spacious building across the road from Time Shed No. 3. It is rapidly approaching completion.

INTERESTING FACTS concerning the structure: About 34,000 square feet of floor space; fourteen kinds of pipe, three kinds of sewers—five miles total of piping; hot and cold distilled water to be delivered through silver and tin-lined pipes to all laboratory desks.

A LARGE spectographic division with a streamlined arrangement for analytical production control will occupy several rooms. East wing will be devoted to metallurgy, and middle section of west wing is for chemistry, process engineering, library and sample preparation. Aside from spectograph control the laboratory will have units of absorption spectra, thermic titra-devices, latest type electrolytic apparatus, polarograph and conductivity units and photometric gas equipment.

GABBS ON POSTAL MAP

With the installation of a postoffice in that valley the official mailing address from June 1 will be Gabbs, Nevada, instead of either Luning or Tolyabe.